

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,862

SO FAREWELL
THEN, NEWS
TEN BRIAN VINEY
REVIEW FRONT

FRIDAY 5 MARCH 1999

(1850p) 45p

JAGGER'S BLUES

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN OUR UNRIVALLED MUSIC SECTION

This is the punishment for Anglo-Saxons who sold us all'

JUCY HANNAN
Bwindi National Forest, Uganda

PHOTOGRAPHS had been taken with care and had come sharp. One was of a silver-gorilla and the other a silver-panther. They were taken by me and meant to be memories of an exciting holiday. In I turned over the photograph and began to grasp the darkness of what happened at Bwindi.

It is, in black ink, in old schoolboy French, a note at the back of the photo: "This is the punishment for Anglo-Saxons who sold us all to protect the society and oppress the society."

And then at the back of the photo print: "Here is the punishment of all the Anglo-Saxons who sold us to the Nilotics (Hutu) against the Bantu cultivators (the Hima). If you do not understand this lesson it's because you don't want to understand - but you will understand the forces of nature."

The photographer is now dead, along with the seven others who were marched away to be butchered in the jungle. They were hacked down from behind by machetes carried to clear a path through the jungle.

Holding the photographs, strangely uncrumpled and few-looking, I thought of the cold brutality with which the killers chopped down their victims and then calmly sat down to pen these long, defiant messages to the outside world.

Then I looked around at what had been left behind by those men and women, frightened and some of them crying, as they were led off. There was a fixture list for Wolverhampton Wanderers, and then, over

Voilà Punition
des Anglo-Saxons
qui nous ont
protégé la minorité
et nous opprimé la
MAJORITÉ.

A message found on the body of one of the eight tourists murdered in the Bwindi National Park. It translates: "This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and oppressing the majority." Right: Ugandan soldiers guarding one of the tourist camp-sites attacked by the Hutu marauders on Monday.

AP/Reuters

there, the stub of a ticket to see *Shakespeare in Love* at a cinema in Putney, London. Thrown on the floor were cassettes of *Crowded House* and a mountaineering magazine called *Get High*. Little touches of lives of ordinary people which had been tossed away to the gunmen as they ransacked the huts.

We had come down to the impenetrable Forest in a troop-carrying helicopter accompanied by a phalanx of soldiers in camouflage nervously fingering semi-automatic rifles. After

landing, as we made our journey along a track to the safari camps, a group of villagers came out to watch. They had seen a lot of men with guns recently. The officers tried to reassure them that this time they had nothing to fear.

Then there we were, in among the huts where the Hutu militia had descended that morning to begin a nightmare. There lay the upturned skeletons of a burn-out truck, the kind of thing one might see in a bad road accident. But this one had been deliberately set

on fire and rolled on to the body of Paul Wagaba, the community warden, one of the few who had managed to return fire before the camp was overwhelmed. It would have been overwhelming. He was a brave man," whispered a young warden, and crossed himself.

There were other burn-out wrecks of four-wheel drives, and there were the huts with the roofs burnt out and looking out into a vivid blue, cloudless sky, and a few bits of furniture which had been smashed by the raiders, perhaps frustrated at not finding more loot.

The air around us hung heavy and stagnant. Looking up from the campsite, the hills appeared steep and uncompromising. It would have been a hard climb for the hostages as they were pushed and prodded up that path, not knowing what was to happen to them.

Jeremiah Twinomujjui was there when the rebels came. He spoke softly, pausing sometimes as images of the night came racing into his mind. "There were women, women among the rebels. They were shouting 'Zana majirango,'

Kinyarwanda for 'Bring money'. They dressed ordinary like civilians, but they were carrying guns, machetes and hammers. They were breaking down doors, they were screaming.

"I ran into the bush to hide. But I could see what they were doing. They were setting fire to the buildings and the trucks and then they killed Paul Wagaba and burned his body..." His voice faded away to a whisper.

Alongside him, Chris Oryema remembers the red headbands of the rebels dancing in

front of his eyes in the night lit by burning cars. "There were about 200 of them," he said. "They were all quite young, none of them over 30. They were vicious. I just jumped out of the window and rolled into the bush and I am alive now."

Lieutenant-Colonel Benon Biraro looked up into the canopy of the forest and said: "We shall find them, catch them and if necessary kill them. They are going into the Congo. We have followed them there."

Then, taking a deep breath, he outlined what had happened after the rebels had taken the hostages. "After getting the tourists in the morning we know two or three women couldn't cope, they couldn't climb the hill, they pleaded with the rebels and were released. But then we know there were two other women who also had problems walking the hill. This was the first group that was killed, including a man."

In a concerted operation by Rwandan and Ugandan troops, 15 Hutu rebels of the gang which murdered the tourists were killed in an ambush inside



British fury at US over 'banana war'

BY COLIN BROWN,
STEPHEN CASTLE
AND ANDREW MARSHALL

The flashpoint for the trade row was America's failure this week to win World Trade Organisation (WTO) backing for its demand that the EU drop tariffs on large-scale Central American producers' exports of bananas - which are mainly owned by US corporations.

The US complained of unfair trade restrictions against its producers compared with the

smaller Caribbean banana producers, who can export tariff-free to the EU. Because of historical colonial links to the island communities, many EU countries want to protect them from the economic damage of direct competition.

Rather than wait for a WTO ruling, which it promised "soon" after 15 March, the US imposed a 100 per cent tariff yesterday on selected EU luxury goods from Italian handbags to pecorino cheese.

Brussels reacted with fury, accusing Washington of breaching WTO rules.

"The international trading system only works if all countries fulfil their obligations," said Ambassador Peter Scher, US special trade negotiator, announcing the sanctions.

EU negotiators believe the US has struck such an aggressive position on a relatively insignificant dispute to lay down a marker in looming clashes over US-produced hormone-treated beef and genetically modified crops and foods.

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Mr Blair, who this week advised Europe to follow the US way on economic reform, said on a visit to Scotland: "We must make sure this is resolved... No one should be in any doubt about our determination to make sure... jobs are protected."

British taxpayers may now have to pay up to £17m to protect about 500 jobs in the cashmere industry in the Scottish Borders after the Government promised to pay the duty.

Downing Street officials protested directly to the White House, but there was no contact between Tony Blair and President Bill Clinton on the issue.

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A tense stand-off was under way in Kosovo Foreign P14

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Bramleys face child abduction charges

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A COUPLE who went on the run for 17 weeks with their two foster children are to be charged with abduction, police said yesterday.

Jeff and Jenny Bramley disappeared from their home in Cambridgeshire last September after hours they were due to return the two little girls to social services.

They reappeared last January and after a private hearing in the High Court, a judge ruled that it was in the interests of Jade Bennett, five, and her half-sister Hannah, three, that the Bramleys be granted temporary custody.

But to the surprise of many of those close to the case, Cambridgeshire police issued a statement yesterday, saying: "A married couple, aged 35, are to be charged with child abduction, the Crown Prosecution Service has advised.

"The couple were interviewed by police officers in January and a file was submitted to the CPS for review and advice."

The couple will appear in



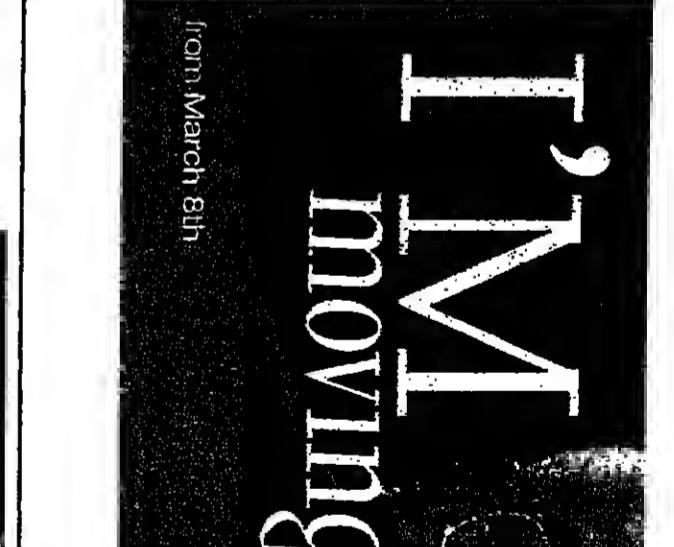
The couple who went on the run for 17 weeks PA

court on a date to be fixed. Cambridgeshire social services declined to comment.

But a police source close to the case admitted there was "great surprise" that the CPS had decided to proceed with the case. Abduction carries a maximum seven-year sentence.

The couple wrote an open letter to several newspapers, pleading to be allowed to be the girls' "Mummy and Daddy forever".

At a private hearing in the Family Division of the High Court in January, Mrs Justice Hogg said the children could stay with the Bramleys for the time being.



From next Monday you'll find Trevor McDonald at 6.30, not 10pm.

Which means there's now room for uninterrupted films, dramas and edgier shows.

All followed by a later news slot.

well at 10pm with Dermot Murnaghan.

tv gets better

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Australia 5.00 AM Israel 12.00 SM
Austria 40.00 Sch. Italy 5.00 L
Belgium 20.00 BE Luxembourg 20.00 L/T
Canada 3.50 Cdn. Malta 0.00
Croatia 1.00 HR Norway 20.00 NO
Denmark 1.00 DK Portugal 2.50 Pt
Finland 10.00 DK Singapore 33.50 SG
France 16.00 FR Spain 2.50 Sp
Germany 4.00 DE Switzerland 2.50 CH
Greece 3.00 GR Turkey 1.25 TL
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■ ANNA PAVORD
IN THE GARDEN
■ BOYD TONKIN
ON HAROLD BLOOM
■ PLUS ARTS,
BOOKS, TRAVEL

Livingstone's mayoral bid is 'buried'

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

has breached Rule 4 of the candidates' code of conduct, which states that no candidate should issue statements to the media about any aspect of the selection procedure.

The MP has frequently attacked the suggestion that a vetting panel of 16 party figures should be allowed to prevent him putting his name on ballot papers for London's 69,000 Labour members.



Ken Livingstone: Labour claims he breached rules

Millbank further alleges that the MP has disqualified himself on two elements of the personal specification for candidates. These insist on a "commitment to party policy and programme and campaigns" and a "commitment to the principle of a Greater London Assembly and Directly Elected Mayor".

The detailed rule breaches, taken with Mr Livingstone's potentially low score on a "loyalty test", mean that he is not likely to even make the longlist for interviews for the mayoral candidacy, it is claimed.

Officials also allege that he

A National Executive Committee source said: "He has put himself outside the rules on this." Another said: "After launching this campaign, he's dead and buried. He's given us all the ammunition we needed."

A party insider said Mr Livingstone's appeal for public funds left him open to the charge that Labour's political opponents could be supporting his campaign and try to influence an internal party matter.

"He has clearly breached the spirit of the rules. The rules are drawn up in the first place to make sure that no one can buy their way into any election within the party. That means no posters, ads, or non-approved material."

The scoring system is systematic, not drawn up arbitrarily – and on loyalty and commitment to the principle of a Mayor, he scores abysmally."

The party has already used its Excalibur rebuttal computer, which was devised to attack the Tories in opposition, to find quotes from House of Commons speeches, media comments and press articles for evidence of his loyalty.

Although Labour has yet to formally draw up its selection procedure, it is being stressed that the Livingstone campaign is clearly aimed at influencing key policy issues from this summer.

In an important concession to critics north of the border, the Prime Minister will tell the annual conference of the Scottish Labour Party that devolution will bring diversity and distinctive policies. The more contentious issue will be seen as a response to criticism that Mr Blair has been reluctant to turn Labour's rhetoric on devolution into reality. The Labour leadership has been accused of voting left-wingers as candidates for the parliament.

As soon as the Millbank mafia make clear I'm allowed to stand, my campaign will stop. Once the rules are extended, I will obey them," he said. "The machinations of these anonymous spin doctors run the risk of us losing the mayoralty. If they rig the ballot, there is a chance Labour will lose."



Tony Blair at Yarrows shipyard in Glasgow. He is offering the Scottish Parliament more leeway Colin Templeton

'Control freak' Blair seeks a softer look with Scottish trip

BY ANDREW GRICE
AND STEPHEN GOODWIN

As Mr Blair began a two-day visit to Scotland yesterday, his allies conceded that "Scottish problems will require Scottish solutions". They cited issues such as land reform and the drug-abuse crisis north of the border.

Aides insisted that "Scottish New Labour" would still be acting in tune with the values of the Labour Party by producing distinctive policies.

"Many of the problems are the same throughout the UK, but others will require different answers," said one.

Mr Blair's change of emphasis at today's Glasgow conference will be coupled with another strong attack on the Scottish National Party, which is on course to win a sizeable presence in the first elections to the Edinburgh Parliament in May.

The Prime Minister will also be anxious to tackle confusion among the public about the voting system to be used in the elections and growing fears in the Labour hierarchy that it will damage the party's prospects.

Despite a 2.5m government "education" campaign, voters are thought not to fully understand the two-question system intended to produce a better balance between parties.

Vote one will be cast in the traditional, first-past-the-post system for a named candidate and the second for regional party lists.

But a Labour source said there was still confusion, with people believing the second vote should be for a "second-choice" party.

Strategists fear this would mean second votes in normally solid Labour areas in the country's central belt going to the SNP.

Brushing aside a poll suggesting most Scots want him to keep out of the election campaign, the Prime Minister was in Glasgow yesterday meeting factory workers.

Cook admits three leaks

BY FRAN ARRANS
Westminster Correspondent

THE LEAKING of a Commons committee report on Sierra Leone was one of no fewer than three such breaches, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, admitted last night.

An official inquiry was already under way after it emerged that a member of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs had given ministers a sensitive report on the arms-Africa affair before its publication. Last night, a further leak inquiry was launched.

The Conservatives described the leaks as "blatant contempt for Parliament and the democratic process". The Foreign Secretary's admission came in a written answer to David Wilshire, the Tory MP for Spelethorne. He said he had also seen drafts of reports on European Union enlargement and on human rights.

Ernie Ross, a member of the committee and Labour MP for Dundee West, resigned last week after admitting to the leaking of the report on the sale of weapons to Sierra Leone.

When Mr Ross first made his admission, Mr Cook said the MP was not the only one to leak. Details of the report in The Independent four days before its publication had not come from the Foreign Office, he insisted.

In last night's answer Mr Cook said he had seen the human rights report himself, the enlargement report was seen only by officials and Derek Fatchett, Foreign Office minister.

"No action was taken to publish or disclose any part of these reports, or to interfere in any way with the preparation of the committee's deliberations on them," Mr Cook said.

The committee chairman, Donald Anderson, was writing to Mr Cook to ask when he received the three reports. The committee was also writing to MPs and officials linked with the first inquiry to ask if they had been responsible for the further leaks.



HIGH TIDES

For 24 hrs to 2pm Thursday

Sun 18 Mar 1999

Sea level mm

Rate mm hr

Max °C

Aberdeen 4.2 0.3 8 46

Anglessey 3.4 1.3 9 48

Ayr 0.9 2.0 8 46

Birmingham 0.8 2.2 9 45

Bournemouth 5.8 7 45

Bristol 2.6 102 9 48

Cardiff 0.7 6.1 10 50

Clyde 0.7 2.3 9 48

Cromer 2.7 1.8 10 50

Dartmouth 3.2 0.8 9 48

Dover 1.2 12.13 9 52

Falmouth 0.4 2.0 9 48

Folkestone 6.4 8.9 10 50

Glasgow 2.8 1.1 10 50

Hastings 5.1 6.1 10 50

Hove 0.6 5.6 9 48

Isle-of-Wight 2.2 8.9 8 46

Kendal 1.7 11 10 50

Leeds 2.6 1.1 9 48

Lerwick 3.4 4.1 9 48

Liverpool 2.7 1.1 10 50

London 5.9 7.1 11 52

Manchester 5.1 4.3 11 52

Newcastle 6.3 3.3 11 52

Plymouth 1.8 2.3 9 48

Margate 0.2 16.3 8 46

Morecambe 0.2 16.3 8 46

Newcastle 3.9 2.3 9 48

Nottingham 4.5 2.0 11 52

Oxford 4.7 4.3 10 50

Paisley-on-Wye 0.7 18.3 9 48

Paisley 0.7 18.3 9 48

Scarborough 2.6 5.1 10 50

Sheffield 7.0 2.3 11 52

Southport 0.1 4.6 5 41

Swanage 6.9 7.1 11 52

Torbay 3.7 6.8 10 50

Trotter 4.5 5.1 12 54

Weymouth 4.8 7.4 10 50

Wirksworth 0.6 12.2 9 48

Wolverhampton 1.8 2.3 9 48

Yarmouth 0.2 16.3 8 46

Youghal 0.2 16.3 8 46

Zeebrugge 0.2 16.3 8 46

Zeebr

E coli cases traced back to dairy farm

A DAIRY farm in Cumbria was traced yesterday as the source of an *E. coli* outbreak that has put three children in hospital and infected 16 others.

The children were receiving treatment for kidney problems at Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, where their condition was said to be "comfortable" last night. The infection was caused by the bacterium O157, the most serious form of *E. coli*, which was responsible for the outbreak in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1996 in which 21 people died.

Health officials in West Cumbria appealed to local people to stay calm as the Government's Chief Medical Officer admitted the outbreak was serious. Professor Liam Donaldson said prompt local action had contained the problem but investigations were continuing and he promised to "monitor the situation closely." The farm had supplied milk to 300 people.

The cases first came to light on Monday after a local GP told Cumbria health authority of a cluster of patients with persistent diarrhoea. On Tuesday it was confirmed that the organism causing the symptoms was *E. coli*. Environmental health of-

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

icials at Allerdale Borough Council then began investigating the source of the infection. They discovered all the families infected had received milk from Scales Farm in Brigham, Cockermouth, and traced the infection to a pasteurising unit.

Stella Goh, public health consultant, said: "We have to consider this as a serious outbreak but you have to bear in mind that we have taken action very, very quickly. In that respect, we have contained it very, very well."

Asked about the three children affected, she said: "It's difficult to say whether their lives are in danger. They are in a serious condition, but they are stable." She urged people in the area to stay calm and to seek medical advice if they suffered from persistent symptoms.

John Cain, an environmental health officer, said the problem appeared to be limited to one delivery of milk from the farm, which has been serving the area for several years.

He said: "We seized milk from the bulk tank and the

farmer volunteered not to bottle any more milk at the premises. There appears to have been a hiccup with one batch that went out."

Milk from the farm is now being pasteurised and bottled elsewhere. Mr Cain added: "I cannot stress enough that people who may still have milk in the fridge which they bought before Wednesday to throw it away."

The bacterium causing alarm in Cumbria is a dangerous strain of *Escherichia coli*, a normal inhabitant of the gut. In 1982 it became clear that an *E. coli* strain O157:H7 had acquired a gene that enabled it to produce a powerful poison, verotoxin. This *E. coli* has caused problems in America, Europe, South Africa and Japan.

In Britain the number of cases has been increasing from 361 in 1991 to more than 1,000 in 1997. Last year the total declined slightly to about 900. The bacterium causes bleeding and diarrhoea, and is especially dangerous in children.

Its most serious consequence is haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a form of kidney failure.



William Thompson at Scales Farm, Brigham, believed to be the source of the outbreak. *Carlisle Evening News*

Official who sold arms was obeying orders

SENIOR CIVIL servants who drew up a secret plan to dispose of hundreds of thousands of ex-Ministry of Defence weapons are not to be disciplined for keeping the scheme from ministers.

The officials, who in effect changed government policy without referring to Parliament, will remain in their posts after the acquittal yesterday of a junior official who was charged with conspiracy to defraud the MoD because he

BY STEVE BOGGAN

followed their instructions. Robert Fenley, 49, was arrested in 1994, suspended from his post, and had to wait years before being charged. Yesterday, however, a jury at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court unanimously acquitted him after hearing that he was simply doing his job.

The case revolved around a real change in government policy when, in 1988, ministers

agreed that old MoD weaponry could be sold to foreign governments in the same way – and under the same strict controls – as modern arms. Previously, they had been destroyed or dumped out at sea.

With the ending of the Cold War, large stocks of unwanted small arms and ammunition had built up at the armed forces depot at Donnington, Shropshire. However, attempts to sell them to foreign governments failed because much

was old or obsolete, so civil servants unilaterally set about selling them to independent arms dealers.

Mr Fenley's job was to find buyers for 40,000 Second World War vintage Lee Enfield rifles, 56,000 self-loading rifles, and 10,000 Browning and Walther PPK pistols. He made contact with Robert Trem, a former RAF officer who exported diesel electric generator sets and old marine engines from his business in Doncaster, and

persuaded him to buy some of the surplus.

Business burgeoned, with Mr Trem selling via a third-party to the north American gun-club fraternity, but the arrangement came unstuck when another dealer wrote to his MR Sir Archie Hamilton, a former Tory minister for the armed forces, complaining that he had been unable to buy surplus weapons.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Fenley and Mr Trem had

that "the policy is changing, but we are not going to tell anyone".

An MoD spokesman said the evidence in the case would be reviewed to see if there were lessons to be learned. Other sources said it was "most unlikely" that any disciplinary action would be taken against officials who gave evidence in the court case.

Mr Fenley said: "I am elated. I can't believe it is all over because it has been such a big part of my life for so long."

New bid to tackle corrupt lawyers

By IAN BURSELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE LAW Society has asked Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, for greater powers to raid the offices of solicitors suspected of cheating their clients.

Details of the request emerged yesterday as the Home Office minister Mike O'Brien made a blistering attack on the legal profession for failing to root out "seamy", "corrupt", and "incompetent" immigration lawyers.

Mr O'Brien, himself a lawyer, demanded greater efforts from the Law Society and Bar Council in taking action to ensure that such lawyers were unable to continue working.

But Michael Mathews, chairman of the Law Society, said the profession did not have the powers to raid the offices of solicitors unless there was specific evidence of malpractice.

The Home Office has given the Law Society the names of 50 legal firms who are suspected of abusing the legal aid system and cheating clients by giving questionable immigration advice. So far, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, the regulatory arm of the Law Society, has investigated only two. Mr Mathews said: "With just a list of names there is nothing we can do. Our powers don't enable us to investigate or just general intelligence."

Mr O'Brien's comments came during a robust defence of the Government's Immigration and Asylum Bill at the annual conference of the Immigration Advisory Service in London. He said: "There's a seamy side to the legal profession and I want that seamy side cleaned up. We don't want to have these advisers and lawyers providing this incompetent and sometimes corrupt advice continuing to practise."

We expect the Law Society and the Bar to ensure that that is cleaned up."

The Bill, which has just completed its second reading in Parliament, has already set out plans for tight new controls to regulate immigration advisers, many of whom are not legally qualified.

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13 OSCAR NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE

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John Nisbey

'Three Rs is killing off school sport'

HOMEWORK CLUBS promoted by Ministers and the Government's obsession with the three Rs is killing sport in schools, heads said yesterday. They warned of a "generation of couch potatoes" and said sports facilities in most schools were little better than "those in a banana republic".

A survey of 2,126 primary and secondary schools carried out by the National Association of Head Teachers found that 94 per cent of primary schools have no gym and more than half have to share a playing field. More than 100 primary schools and 55 secondaries had no access to a playground.

Though virtually every school has a hall, it is used in the vast majority of cases for assemblies, drama, teaching, meals and tests as well as PE.

Primary heads said that both sport and PE are in decline as schools struggle to meet new Government literacy and numeracy targets for 11-year-olds. Ministers have relaxed detailed requirements for subjects such as history, music, art and PE to allow primary schools to concentrate on literacy and numeracy.

Secondary heads point out

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

that inter-school sports competitions and clubs are now in direct competition with homework clubs, promoted by the Government as part of its drive to raise standards.

More pupils are also taking jobs after school and teachers are too busy keeping up with Government initiatives to coach teams.

Roger Hewins, head of Holliers Walk primary school in Hinckley, Leicestershire, said: "You let children out for an hour to play sport and you think we have gone down a point from our literacy target."

Heads say they are worried about the fitness and sedentary life style of children who are taken everywhere by car.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said the Government must put more emphasis on PE in the curriculum and give schools more resources for better facilities. "There is enormous yearning among the great British public for us to win the World Cup, for us to win at cricket. We will never achieve that if we skew the whole of PE and sports provision towards

specialist sports colleges and Premier League football academies. There must be an investment which benefits all children."

"Sports facilities in too many schools are not much better than those of a banana republic. Nothing illustrates the yawning gap between the affluent independent sector and the state sector quite so starkly as the state of PE and sports facilities."

But Charles Clarke, the schools minister, said: "We attach the highest priority to sport and PE in schools. It remains a compulsory subject for all pupils. A significant proportion of £180 million from the New Opportunities Fund will be used to enhance school sport out of hours."

Heads say they are worried about the fitness and sedentary life style of children who are taken everywhere by car.

A total of 34 specialist sports schools have been set up and more will follow. They not only benefit their own pupils but those in the areas, providing high quality facilities and training, said the minister. The Government is protecting the disposal of school playing fields and providing £1.1bn for capital works in schools, including improvements in sports facilities, he added.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS are to get a £150m injection to fulfil the Government's pledge to cut infant class sizes, ministers announced yesterday.

The money will pay for 2,500 primary school teachers to halve, by September, the number of five, six and seven-year-olds in classes over 30. Tony Blair, speaking during a visit to a school in west London, said:

"We are now on target to honour our pledge to cut class sizes for five, six and seven-year-olds to 30 or under in virtually all primary schools by next year and certainly all of them by September 2001."

"That's earlier than we promised and is good news for

hundreds of thousands of parents, teachers and children."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the extra teachers would allow 1,600 schools to cut class sizes, reducing the number of infants taught in classes over 30 to 200,000 by September, down from 485,000 in January 1998.

Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, welcomed the announcement. He said: "The Government will be thanked by all the children and their teachers for the determination it has shown to limit class sizes in the early years of schooling."

Critics, however, claim the improvements have been won at the expense of choice and increases in mixed-age classes. Don Foster, the Liberal Democ-

rat education spokesman, said: "Labour got their sums wrong. It's costing them more than expected and they are seeking to mask the effects."

Theresa May, a Conservative education spokesman, said: "The real issue is why children are being turned away from schools of their parents choice because of this Labour Government's policies."

Primary schools get £150m to cut class sizes

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

"We are now on target to honour our pledge to cut class sizes for five, six and seven-year-olds to 30 or under in virtually all primary schools by next year and certainly all of them by September 2001."

"That's earlier than we promised and is good news for

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Eco-warrior Margaret Jones at her protest home near Bristol. Yesterday she was jubilant at the Lord's ruling on peaceful assembly John Voss

Eco-warrior wins 'right to assembly'

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

A WOMAN who gave up academia to become a full-time civil rights activist known as "Swampy's sister" yesterday won a historic House of Lords ruling on the right to peaceful assembly.

Margaret Jones, 50, who lives in a bower (a shack) in a derelict warehouse near Bristol, where she is protesting against the Avon relief road, won her legal victory after being arrested outside Stonehenge, in Wiltshire, four years ago.

Dr Jones, a former lecturer in American literature at the University of the West of England, and fellow civil rights activist Richard Lloyd were arrested and convicted for "trespassory assembly" after gathering at the stones to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield, when police clashed with travellers on their way to Stonehenge.

After the House of Lords upheld the pair's appeal yesterday, Dr Jones was celebrating in a public house. "We started out to

Court, but that ruling was reversed in January 1997 by the High Court. However, last October they were given leave to take their case to the House of Lords.

As part of yesterday's ruling, Lord Hutton said: "The common law recognises that there is a right for members of the public to assemble together to express views on matters of public concern and I consider that the common law should now recognise this right, which is one of the fundamental rights of citizens in this country, is unduly restricted unless it can be exercised in some circumstances on the public highway."

"From being only allowed to assemble at the whim of the police, we now have a positive right of freedom of expression which includes being able to come together peacefully," Dr Jones said.

Mr Lloyd, 28, said: "I just wish we hadn't had to go through a four-year legal battle to stand peacefully by a road."

Census to include check on sexuality

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

QUESTIONS about income, religion, illness, and even the sexuality of your partner are to be included for the first time in the 2001 Census. Under government plans published yesterday, the national survey will be the most detailed of its kind since its inception in 1801.

Traditional British reserve about matters financial and sexual will be tested by a list of questions aimed at giving civil servants and others a comprehensive picture of the nation's citizens. For the first time, homosexual couples who live together will be able to identify themselves as partners.

In what the Government says is an attempt to identify the poorest in society, the Census White Paper suggests that unprecedented questions on income are also likely to be included. A census rehearsal to be staged next month asks respondents to place themselves in one of six annual income bands, ranging from under £3,500 to more than £25,000.

If the public responds well to the pilot scheme, the question will be part of the full survey in two years' time, pending approval from ministers.

A new section on religion will back up the 1991 Census's question on ethnic background, bringing England and Wales into line with Northern Ireland. The 32 million forms due to go out in 2001 will offer a choice of "Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Islam/Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, none or other".

To allow a more detailed picture of ethnic make-up, categories will be greatly expanded to include "Irish", "Mixed", "Asian British" and "Black

Leading article,
Review, page 3

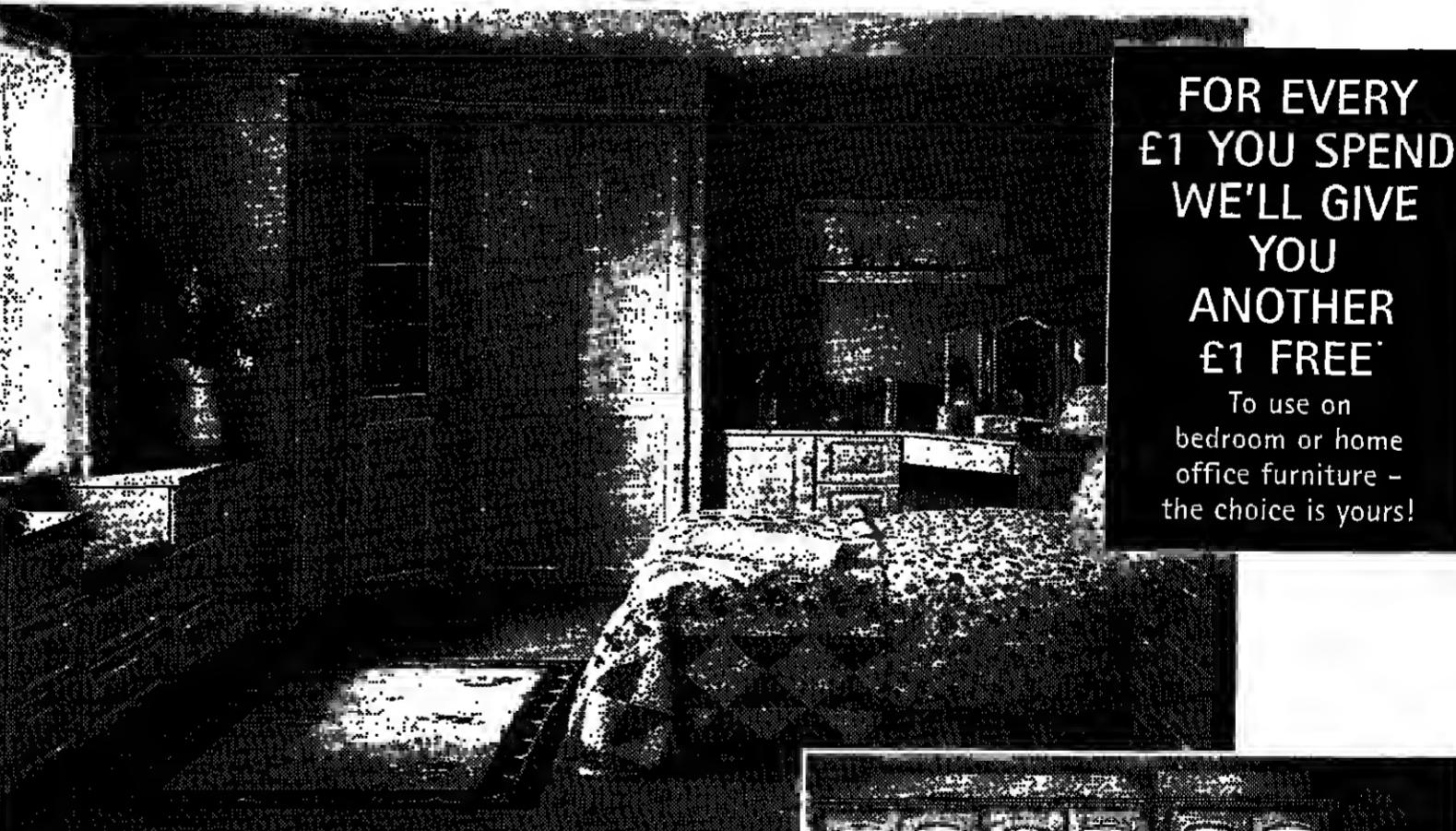
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er education policy said: "Labour got the wrong thing right, because it's costing them more than expected and the spending to meet the extra

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By JAMES BURGESS

Crime editor

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Hewitt drifts off into foggy world of election slogans

WITH ALL this talk of purdah in recent days I had imagined that the Chancellor might absent himself from Treasury questions. Surely he should be reclining in some Civil Service zenana, muttering sweet nothings at his economic advisers from behind a fetching tartan yashmak. Would the fiscal Nubians who guard him really let him loose at the moment when his virtue was most vulnerable to improper advances?

There he was, though, barefaced in the market place, and subject to the impudent remarks of every passing Tom, Dick or Angus. Then he stood up to speak and I realised that my anxiety had been hopelessly

naïve. There was no chance Mr Brown would be seduced into indiscretion by Opposition MPs. After all, he hasn't answered a Conservative question for the past six months. Why should he begin now?

Paul Truswell, Labour member for Pudsey, later asked Barbara Roche whether the Inland Revenue might be encouraged to use plain English in the explanatory leaflets it sends out to taxpayers it has overcharged. This is a laudable aim but one wonders whether Parliament is quite the body to drive it through, having a distinctly ambiguous relationship to our native tongue itself. "We'll take no lessons from

politicians on the matter of plain-speaking," the Revenue might legitimately reply.

Sometimes utterance is simply detached from any meaningful content, as when Patricia Hewitt drifted off into one of those fog-machine denunciations of the Conservative Party record, garlanded with dog-eared election slogans ("the people of this country blah blah ... safe in Labour hands ... blah blah"). "Hogwash!" barked Nicholas Winterton furiously after one particularly egregious example, but that was a label on hogwash, which at least has some nutritional content. Ms Hewitt's remarks bore a much

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

closer relation to what emerges after the hogwash has been through a pig.

Things aren't much better on the

other side. Yesterday the trophy for linguistic opacity went to David Amess, one of those people whose personal volume control seems to have been knocked out of whack by a blow to the head.

He boomed out a convoluted question that ended with a request to know how the Chancellor proposed to keep his economic promises "without supposedly not raising taxes". I have meditated on this phrase for some time without being able to penetrate its transcendental enigmas. It is a grammatical Möbius strip and I offer it to readers as a kind of Zenn-zoan - like the sound of one-hand clapping.

Tim Delyell finally succeeded in dragging George Robertson to the dispatch box to answer a Private Notice Question about the current terms of engagement in Iraq, a fitting reward for his determination over this matter. I doubt if he will have been greatly enlightened by the response, since Mr Robertson's terms of engagement are simple. When a hostile question is detected anywhere over the no-fly zones he dives for the clouds, either citing the continued intransigence of Saddam Hussein (quite a good argument) or flag-waving for our boys in the air (a rather less reputable one). He noted, with the

sorrowful regret that is customary on such occasions, that Mr Delyell had made no reference to the safety of British airmen in his question. This wasn't actually true since Mr Delyell had specifically asked about the fate of any pilot unlucky enough to be downed, given that no formal state of war existed.

It seems fanciful to imagine that President Saddam would be very fastidious about the legalistic niceties relating to prisoners of war, but if Mr Delyell is sometimes awry in substance, he continues to be right in principle. Questions should be asked and better answers might yet be given.

MPs question plan to tax child benefit

DOUBTS OVER Gordon Brown's plans to tax child benefit for the well-off were raised by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday. The Labour-dominated Social Security Select Committee predicted that unmarried couples living together would manage to avoid paying tax on their child benefit. The MPs also urged the Chancellor to ensure that his proposal did not breach the principle of independent taxation for men and women. They said he should also avoid propelling people currently paying the basic rate of tax into the 40 per cent top-rate bracket by including child benefit payments in their total income.

Mr Brown wants to tax the child benefit paid to the 855,000 families in which one partner pays the higher rate of income tax, which would raise £450m a year - enough to raise the benefit by 70 pence per child each week.

But Treasury officials have warned him that there are practical problems in producing a workable scheme, which may force Mr Brown to delay imposing the tax for one or two

SOCIAL SECURITY

By ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

years. He will reveal his intentions in his Budget next Tuesday, when he is expected to announce a generous rise in child benefit, already due to rise from £11.45 to £14.40 a week for the first child in April.

In a report rushed out before the Budget, the Social Security Committee stopped short of demanding that Mr Brown abandon his plan after Labour MPs watered down the draft report written by Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, who chairs the committee.

Mr Kirkwood said the proposal would be illogical, unfair, complex and would not raise enough cash to raise child benefit substantially across the board. His draft report said the move could threaten independent taxation, under which the tax paid by one person is not affected by the income of any other person in their family.

But Labour MPs endorsed some of Mr Kirkwood's criti-

cisms, with the committee expressing concern that people would not declare they received child benefit on their tax return.

"There is a risk that unmarried couples will find it easy to evade the tax if they choose not to declare their living arrangements to the Inland Revenue," said the report. The Inland Revenue was unlikely to devote a significant amount of money to collecting relatively small sums from a very small group of people.

In a coded criticism of Mr Brown, they concluded: "It will be for the House itself to decide whether the disadvantages and complexities of taxing child benefit would be outweighed by the advantages to all families if there were significant future increases in the level of child benefit."

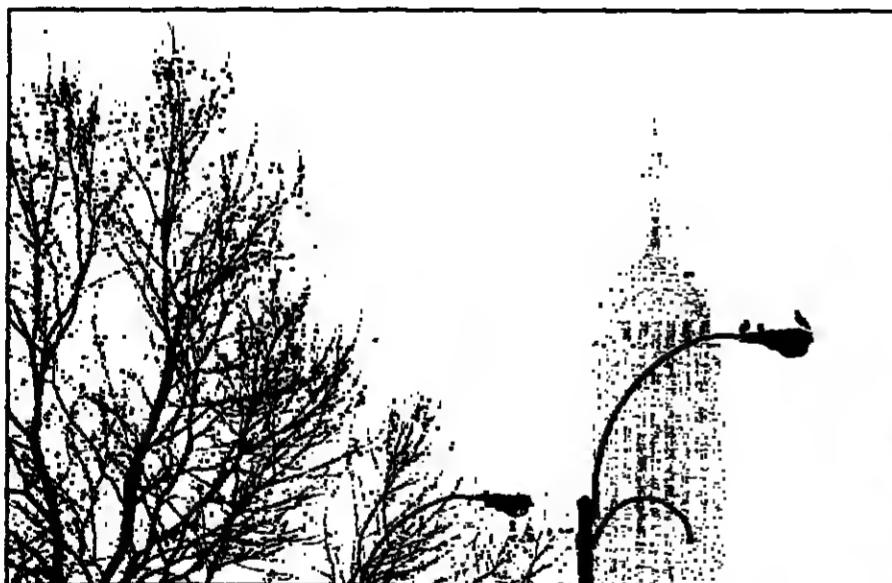
Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory spokesman on Social Security, said the report showed that Mr Brown's plan was "increasingly untenable". He warned that the proposal would be "anti-marriage" as it would penalise families in which one parent stayed at home to look after children and relatives.



The Conservative leader, William Hague, joining actress and singer Patti Boulaye as she announced her candidacy for the Greater London Assembly at Conservative Central Office in London yesterday

Nicola Kurtz

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Tories boycott opening of euro advisory group

GORDON BROWN dismissed the Tories as a "marginalised sect" yesterday after they boycotted the first meeting of a cross-party advisory group on preparations to join the euro.

The Chancellor condemned their decision to leave an "empty chair" at the meeting in protest at the Government's changeover plan. He also launched a fierce attack on "denying choice to the British people" by refusing to prepare to join the single currency at a later date.

The Conservative Party has so marginalised itself that it won't even participate in the discussions about preparations...

MONETARY UNION

By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

their motto is to be unprepared," he said during question time.

The advisory group, chaired by Barry Sheerman, the Labour Co-operative MP for Huddersfield, met for the first time yesterday morning to consider the practical preparations that would be necessary if Britain was to sign up to the euro.

Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, claimed that the national changeover plan, laying the groundwork for possible entry, was about "edging

Britain ever closer to membership in an attempt to close off the option of Britain prospecting outside".

As part of the Government's plans to prepare the country for possible entry, Mr Brown announced that banks, retailers and small businesses would be among those involved in working parties "doing a business examination of critical issues" involved in monetary union.

Vincent Cable, Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham, asked what "rational reason" the Tories had to boycott a body on which all other parties were represented.

In a later exchange, Mr Maude challenged the Chancellor over what estimate had been made of the conversion cost to business and the taxpayer of joining the euro. The Chancellor pointed out that the whole point of the changeover plan was to have a discussion of the implications of joining.

But John Bercow, the Tory MP for Buckingham, insisted the Government was trying to "drag Britain into the single currency", adding: "You do so with a cost that you won't calculate, for a benefit you cannot quantify at a risk to the British people which you dare not admit."

Robinson faces shares rebuke

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the former paymaster-general, faced an official complaint from the Tories last night after The Independent revealed he had an undeclared shareholding in a property investment firm.

Elizabeth Filkin, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, has been asked to investigate whether Mr Robinson broke the rules. If she upholds the complaint, the former minister will be dealt with severely by the MPs' watchdog committee, which warned on Wednesday that it would treat another breach very seriously.

Mr Robinson has been criticised three times by the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges for failing to list directors in the Register of Members' Interests.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, said Mr Robinson should be given no more latitude. "It now appears that he has committed a further grave breach of the rules. I hope the committee will look at this very seriously," he said.

Company records show that, between April and November 1997, Mr Robinson held jointly with his stepmother, Pauline

STANDARDS

By FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

Robinson, one third of the shares in the JCT Property Company. They were transferred to her from the JCT Trust and the share register entry is marked "PW Robinson settlement".

A current minister was also facing criticism yesterday after The Independent revealed that he had failed to sell shares in a company he used to work for Stephen Timms, a Social Security minister, is to be forced to dispose of the shares in Ovum after Conservatives claimed the holding could cause a conflict of interest.

A written answer to Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative Social Security spokesman, stressed that the responsibility for disposing of interests lay with Mr Timms.

Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, said no conflict had occurred but added: "The Minister of State will be taking further steps in accordance with the ministerial code."

THE HOUSE



Couples 'worse off on tax'

FRANCIS MAUDE, the shadow Chancellor, attacked the Government's tax record, claiming that married couples with a mortgage were £200-a-year worse off under Labour.

Loans claims made quicker

SOCIAL SECURITY minister Angela Eagle announced "major changes" to simplify and speed the Social Fund Budgeting Loans scheme to make it easier for people to apply.

Today's agenda

Commons: Private Members' Bills: Fur Farming (Prohibition) Bill, second reading; Road Traffic (Vehicle Testing) Bill, second reading; marine rescue services debate. Lords: Not sitting.

sporting life' falls a

final hurdle

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St. Vincenzo

Members plan to liven up bleak House

WAITING PATIENTLY in the dreary queue at the St Stephen's entrance to the Palace of Westminster, Chris Roberts from Springfield, Missouri, stood with a copy of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*. "It was not, Mr Roberts," he quipped, "a dressed, a guide-book."

"I'm a politics student over here in Britain for a semester," he explained, "and I wanted to sit in on Question Time. I had heard the line can be quite long, so I got here early."

Mr Roberts might have had a specific reason to queue up in the cold, but most of the hundreds of people who annually shuffle slowly along do not. They consider the Mother of all Parliaments as nothing more than another tourist attraction, albeit one that costs nothing. But yester-

day, Mr Roberts' might have had a specific reason to queue up in the cold, but most of the hundreds of people who annually shuffle slowly along do not. They consider the Mother of all Parliaments as nothing more than another tourist attraction, albeit one that costs nothing. But yester-

Boothroyd: Supports plans for guided House tours

day it was revealed that those within parliament plan to transform the Palace of Westminster into an all-singing, all-dancing attraction that will charge up to £6.50 for in-depth tours during the summer months when the houses are in recess.

There will be tours of the Royal Gallery, visits to the robing rooms and trips to the division lobbies. Under the plan, currently being considered by the Commons administration committee, tourists will be further lured by up-market souvenirs, ranging from pencils to brooches. At the moment they can buy little more than a few postcards.

"It is a very exciting project.

We want to ensure that we offer the very best," said Peter Jennings, the Serjeant-at-Arms in the Commons. "We believe that what we plan to put on offer will represent very good value for money."

A spokesman for the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, said: "The Speaker is very much in favour

of the scheme though it needs some more work on it."

Specially commissioned research has suggested that up to 80 per cent of visitors to London visit the Palace of Westminster. But while free public access to Parliament is a fiercely defended democratic principle, many observers admit there is currently little to offer the tourist.

Unless on an organised tour sponsored by an MP, tourists currently have no choice but to queue up until a place in the public gallery becomes available. Sometimes the wait can take what seems like forever.

Yesterday was a case in point. Even on a cold March morning it took more than an hour from joining the queue until, eventually, one was allowed into the gallery.

On the way there were security checks, more waits, the need to sign a written promise "not to use opera glasses" and a trudge up five flights of stairs. Finally one was confronted by a sign demanding that, on entry to the gallery, there be no clapping or cheering.

Pat chance of that. Yesterday the seat of democracy was thrilling to the Hon Member for Boring-on-Sea's fascinating insights about the breaking of manifesto pledges on the level of taxation on household fuel.

In the public gallery the tourists looked bored. Down below the Honourable tourist attractions looked equally bored. Another member stood up and said something about small businesses. Everyone jeered, then he sat down.

The tourists in the public gallery looked bemused. Then they got up and trudged back down the five flights of stairs, being careful on their way not to either clap or cheer.

So had it been worth it? "It is very different in Germany," said Kraus Holger, visiting with his girlfriend.

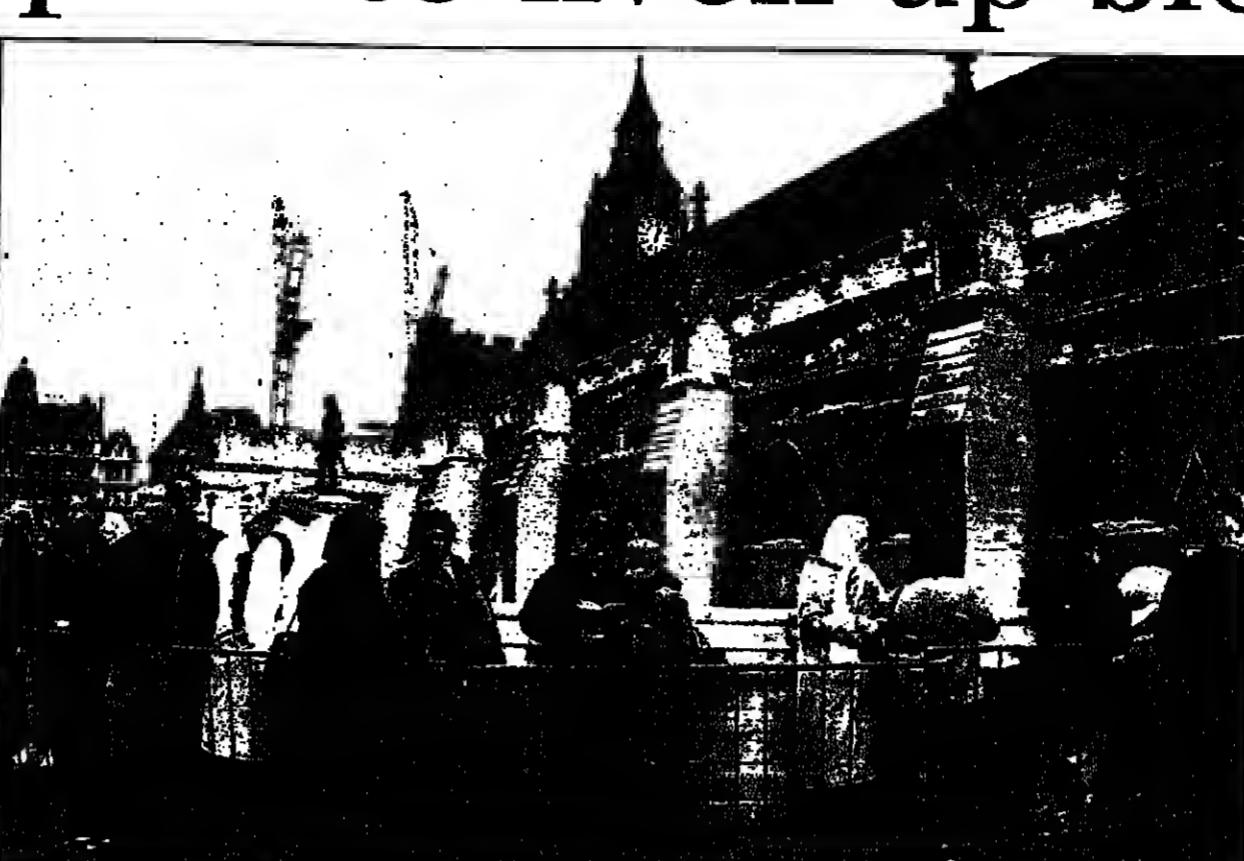
"There you can only watch from behind glass. I don't know much about politics, I am only here for the sightseeing."

George Elkaim from Paris, was equally non-plussed. "It is all right. I could not really understand everything they were saying," he said.

According to the Serjeant-at-Arms, the only contentious issue in regard to the plan for the Palace of Westminster is over whether to charge an entrance fee.

Only a cynic, of course, would suggest that was because if people had to pay to visit, no one would bother.

By ANDREW BUNCOMBE



Tourists queuing in the cold outside the Palace of Westminster yesterday

Peter Macdiarmid

SECURING A RINGSIDE SEAT

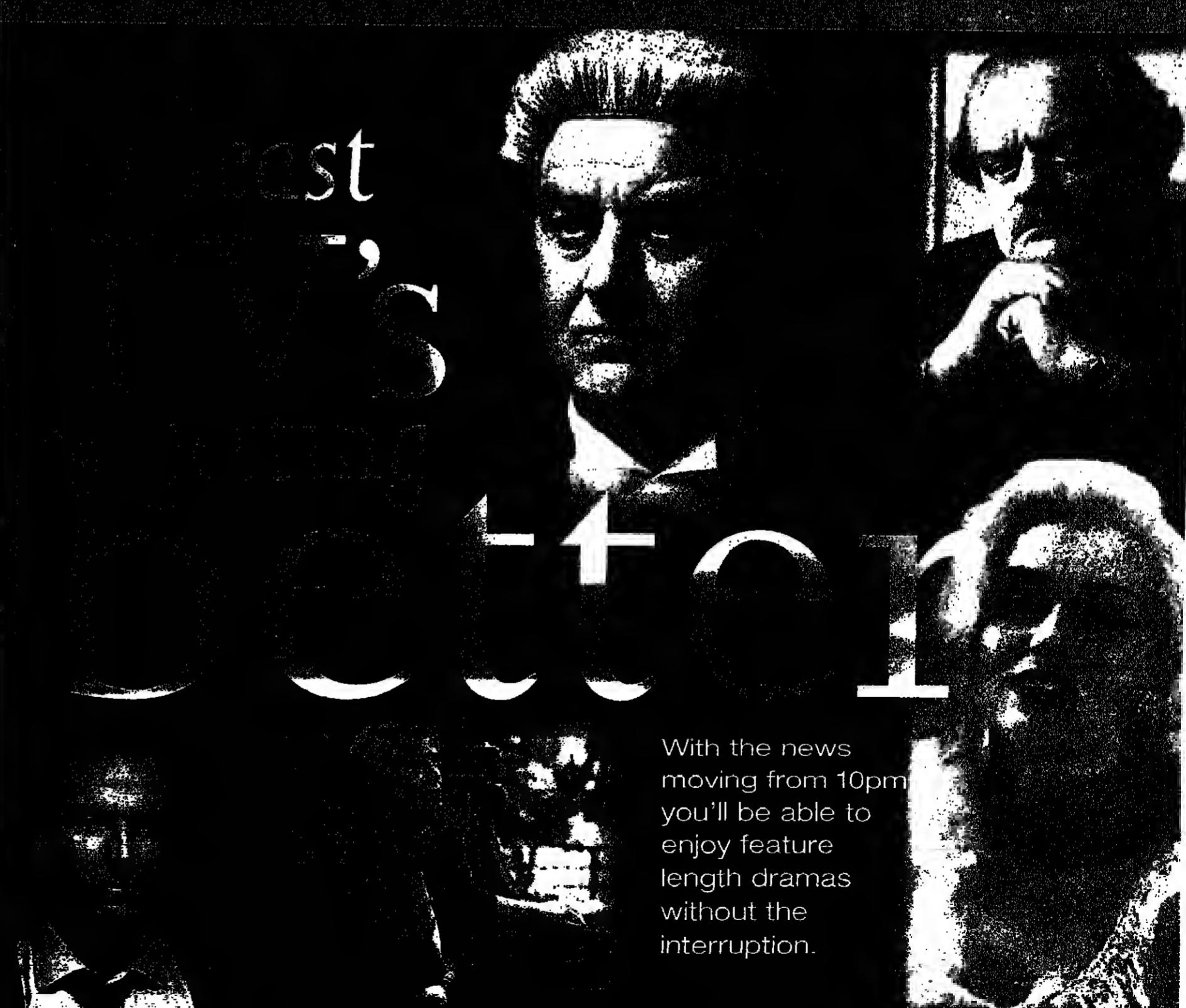
United States: Tourists in Washington may visit the Capitol throughout the year at no charge, although in summer and school holidays they may have to queue for several hours in the open air. One way for Americans to bypass the queues is to secure an invitation from their local Congressman. Visitors are allowed into the House and Senate chambers and can wander the public corridors unescorted.

Germany: Germany's modern Parliament building, by the Rhine in Bonn, is a major tourist attraction and there are coach parks all around to cope with the daily torrent. Soon, the present *Bundestag* building will fall vacant, before being converted into a conference centre. At its new premises, the Reichstag in Berlin.

Parliament is likely to become even more popular.

China: China's parliament, the National People's Congress, meets just once a year, in March, and only diplomats, journalists and other accredited observers can gain access to the Great Hall of the People to witness proceedings.

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'Sporting Life' falls at final hurdle

PLANS TO launch Britain's first national daily sports newspaper have been ditched. Mirror Group confirmed yesterday.

About 40 members of staff on the ill-fated *Sporting Life* project were told by Jeremy Reed, the managing director of the group's sports division, that jobs on other Mirror titles would be found for them if they wanted. The final decision to scrap the enterprise was taken after research revealed that the maximum circulation the title could hope to achieve was 200,000.

"An investment of £10m to £15m would have been required," a Mirror Group spokesman said. "And at that level of circulation, there was no guarantee of a return on the investment." The spokesman added that while the *Sporting Life* brand name would remain alive on the Internet, there was no prospect of the title being revived by the Mirror Group in print form.

A significant factor in the demise of the *Sporting Life* was the departure of David Montgomery as the Mirror Group's chief executive in January. Mr Montgomery's successor, John Allwood, is understood to have told executives to establishing quickly whether the paper would yield a speedy return or

BY RHEVS WILLIAMS
AND PAUL McCANN

be little more than a long-term status symbol of dubious financial potential.

The reaction among former staff yesterday oscillated between bitterness and philosophical resignation. One journalist estimated that the aborted relaunch had cost Mirror Group more than £2.5m. "The decision was supposedly made this week because research showed it would only sell 200,000 to 225,000. But last year, the break-even point was supposed to be sales of 150,000."

John Mulholland, now deputy editor of *The Observer*, was originally drafted in to revive the *Sporting Life* last March. Weeks before the 19 October publication date, recruitment was frozen and the launch delayed on the basis that more research was needed. Mr Mulholland left.

Another former staffer said: "It was always going to be a gamble but, once John left, I think we all suspected the project was doomed. I don't think *The Mirror* had any long-term view of what they were trying to do. All at sea would be a good description of their behaviour."

Mirror Group profits, Business, page 18

• PHILIP HENSHER

What can that noise be, like heavy cotton being ripped in two?

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

PAGE 4

itv

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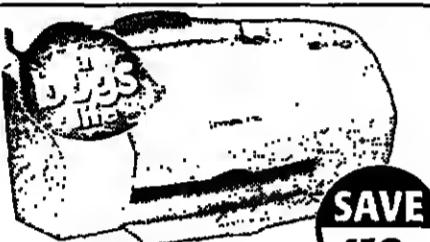


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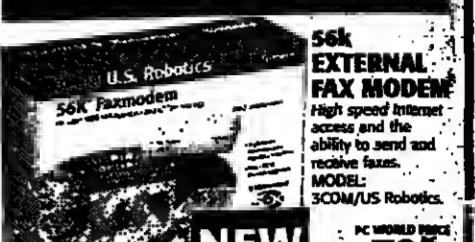
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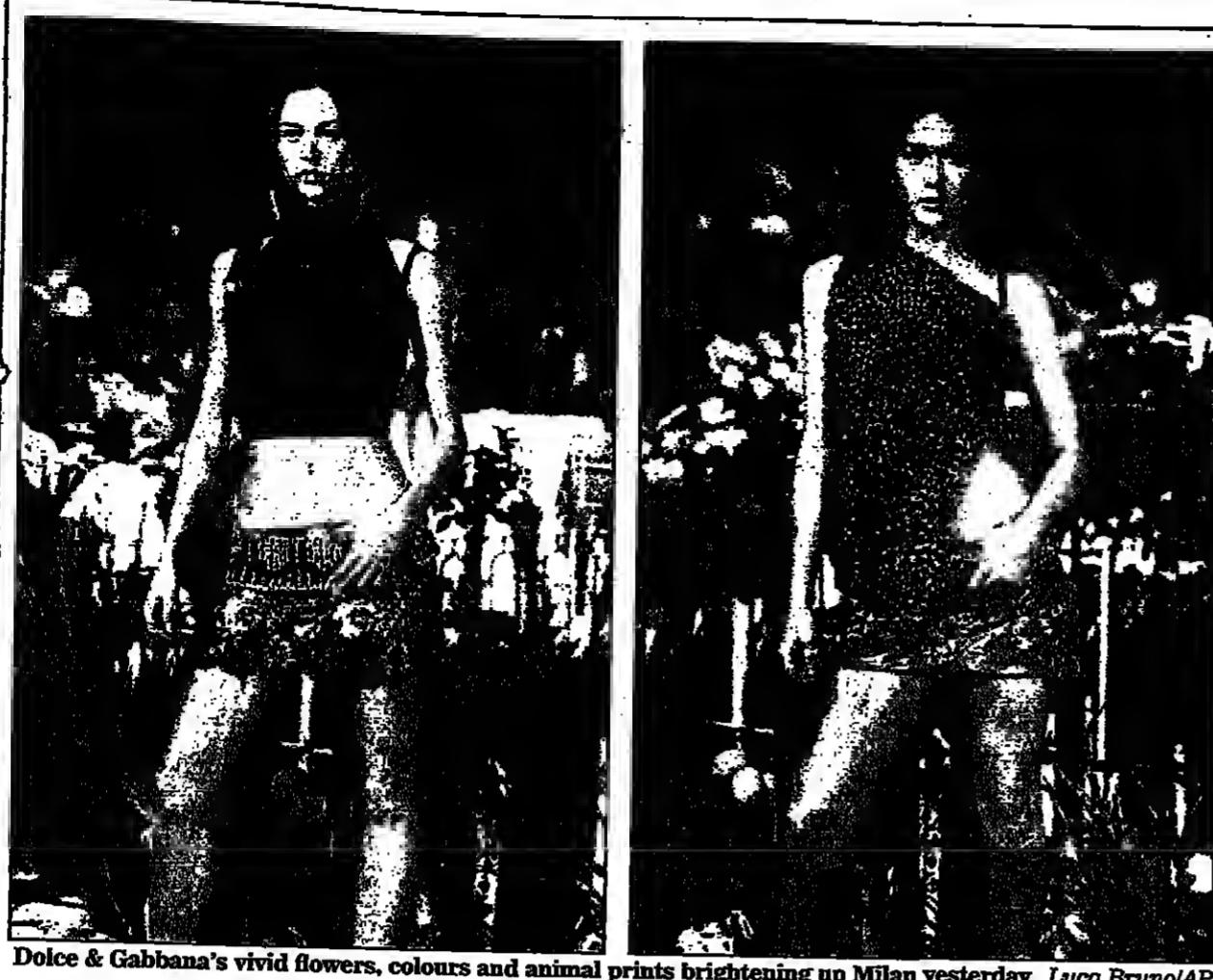
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Dolce & Gabbana's vivid flowers, colours and animal prints brightening up Milan yesterday Luca Bruno/AP

Rainbow colours burst through sludge of Milan

BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL
Fashion Editor

DOMENICO DOLCE and Stefano Gabbana brought a little slice of Sicily to a rainswept Milan yesterday. Roses, wheat sheaves, oranges and lemons formed an exuberant backdrop to a collection that was hot and vividly coloured throughout.

Not for Dolce & Gabbana the sludgy hues that have dominated the Milan catwalks so far. Instead, fluorescent yellow, green, orange and pink was the order of the day.

Perhaps the most clever thing about the collection was that all the Dolce & Gabbana famous hallmarks were in place. There were big Fifties-style bras - the pair have a shrine to the corset in their Milan showroom - worn under sheer stretchy black evening wear and there was the sexiest, curvy footwear seen on the catwalk this season so far. A



Stefano Gabbana (left) and Domenico Dolce

newer trouser shape, skinny and cropped a little below the knee is, equally, a look that the designers have by now made their own. Despite this, overall, the collection had a happy fresh feel.

Earlier this week, Gabbana said he was tired of fashion and of the pressure on designers to reinvent themselves season after season in particular.

there were signature jewel-encrusted opera coats.

True, the show was not recommended for shrinking violets, but then that is not the Dolce & Gabbana market. Clashing colours, diamante prints and more diamante than Barbara Cartland's jewellery box will suit the very brave, sexy and beautiful down to the ground.

Those with a slightly more demure dress sense, meanwhile, will not be disappointed with immaculately tailored narrow black coats, although even these, cutely, boasted bright animal or floral-print linings.

There was plenty of fur, of course - this is Milan, a city hardly famous for being politically correct. Rabbit and mink dyed in all the colours of the rainbow looked well, expensive. Even by Italian standards, Dolce & Gabbana were pushing it sending out little fur hats shaped like flower pots - Bill and Ben is not what fashion needs.

Doctors will still cover up mistakes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

of which the lens capsule breaks.

The surgeon has to insert stitches and a larger lens than he planned and there is a one in ten chance that the patient's vision will be affected. However, next day the patient, a woman, sees well and is pleased. Should she be told?

Of 248 patients questioned, 92 per cent said they would want to be told and 81 per cent said they would want details of what could happen. Among 48 consultant ophthalmologists 60 per cent said the patient should be told and 33 per cent believed she should be given details.

The findings come after a series of cases that have highlighted the insidious secrecy of medicine and the tendency of doctors to close ranks and cover for errant colleagues. Hearings begin later this month in the Bristol baby deaths inquiry, which will examine how warnings about the high death rate at Bristol Royal Infirmary during the late 1980s and early 1990s went unheeded for years.

The General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary body, revised its guidance on good medical practice in 1997. It now says that after an adverse event a full and honest explanation and an apology should be provided routinely.

In the study, Dr Leslie Hingorani and colleagues at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London, asked a group of patients attending an ophthalmology clinic to imagine an incident in which a surgeon carrying out a cataract operation makes a small error, as a result

Moral guardians sought for Net

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

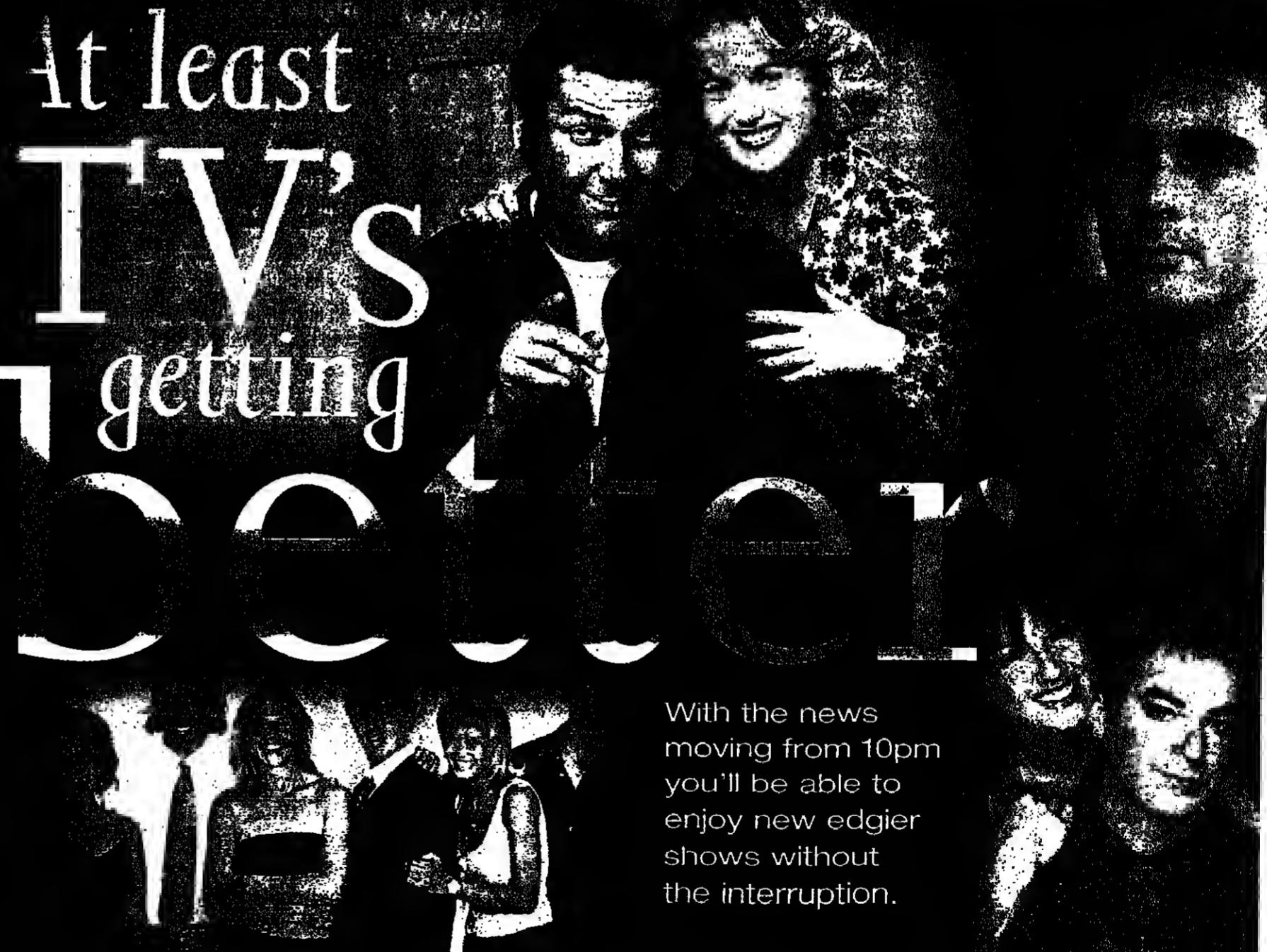
the advert. "You will be involved in assessing hardcore pornographic images involving both adults and children. (Do not apply if that sounds attractive to you.)"

Ruth Dixon, the hotline manager, said it will not be possible to check applicants' criminal records. "As we are not physically working with children, we don't have access to those police checks," she said. "But we will follow up all references very closely."

She added: "We decided to put the warning on the advert to stop people applying who would be shocked and to acknowledge that there might be a small minority of people who might want to apply for the job for the wrong reasons."

FRANKENSTEIN FOODS: RISKS UNKNOWN?

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Action on bug is 'too little, too late'

THE PRIME Minister intervened for the first time yesterday to issue a dire warning about the threat of millennium bug computer flaws amid claims that the Government was risking the livelihoods of millions of people by doing "too little, too late".

The attack came from a former senior adviser to the Cabinet in information technology who now heads Taskforce 2000, a millennium bug consultancy backed by 20 blue chip companies. Ministers are becoming increasingly concerned about the problem as a survey showed that just two out of five British companies were making adequate preparations.

Robin Guenier accused Tony Blair of doing a U-turn on the problem. Mr Blair told the Commons recently that the situation was in hand, especially as far as larger companies were concerned, but he has become more pessimistic.

Mr Guenier said Action 2000, the official government body responsible for dealing with the issue, had adopted a "laid back"

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

attitude to an "extremely serious problem".

Business did not fully understand the implications and that was the fault of Action 2000. "The bug could threaten the livelihoods of millions of people," Mr Guenier said.

In his statement to MPs at the Commons, the Prime Minister said: "Time has very nearly run out for the firms that are behind. With under 10 months to go, they have two clear choices: use the time to beat the bug, or risk being beaten by it."

"The bug is biting now. One in 10 companies interviewed by Action 2000 has already suffered disruption caused by the bug. I strongly urge board directors, managers and employees alike to ensure their firms, their jobs and their livelihoods are safe from the bug."

Action 2000 said too many companies were "woefully behind" in their preparations. Only 43 per cent were on course to have a trouble-free new year.

according to the fourth wave of research by the organisation.

Disturbingly, about four out of the five businesses that believed they were ready, were not, said Gwyneth Flower, managing director of Action 2000. Such companies were being sent a poster warning of "impending doom", she said.

The study showed that progress by large companies, employing 250 or more, had been "too slow" in the previous quarter. Action 2000 claimed at the end of last year that most big organisations were taking the appropriate measures.

Some 58 per cent of small to medium-sized businesses were now on course, compared with 49 per cent in the previous quarter - although the pace was not quick enough. Firms with between one and nine workers had progressed, with about one-third making the necessary preparations.

Ms Flower said that thousands of businesses were suffering from "bug tunnel vision". She said that more than 80

per cent of companies thought the bug posed a serious problem, but less than half gave it a high priority. That was an "extraordinary" position to adopt and smacked of "amateurism", she said.

With just under 10 months to go, she warned that Action 2000 would be taking a tougher line and "naming and shaming" companies which did not measure up.

Ms Flower said: "Let's be clear, we are talking about the risk of severe disruption or worse, of companies that fail to address their own vulnerability to the bug."

She said that enterprises had a legal obligation to ensure the health and safety of their employees and customers. Companies whose computer systems crashed, endangering life and limb, would be closed down by the Health and Safety Executive.

Ms Flower also warned that computer problems could mean a reduction in revenue, legal costs, a loss of customers and a breakdown of supply chains.



Tony Banks, minister for Sport, wants the Dome to become a football stadium after 2000

Brian Harris

For sale: Second-hand Dome, imaginative bids only please

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

BIDS WERE invited yesterday for the Millennium Dome from potential new owners who might want to take it over once celebrations for the year 2000 are over.

English Partnership, which owns the land in east London on which the Dome is built, claims it will last "a generation" before it requires refurbishing. But potential bidders will be told that no taxpayers' money will go towards funding any new use.

Nick Raynsford, whose constituency includes the Dome

and who is minister for London, said there would be no more public money to develop it - but people were being asked to suggest ideas for new uses.

Mr Raynsford did not say what his pet scheme for the Dome would be, but Tony Banks, the Sports minister, has already suggested it could be converted into an international football stadium to back up England's bid to stage the World Cup in 2006.

Potential buyers should be

warned that there are some problems.

Tourists are already getting lost walking to the Dome from historic Greenwich along the Thames riverside path.

There are plans to improve transport links with a river bus and the extension of the Jubilee line Underground to Canary Wharf.

The Docklands Light Railway network is also being extended across the Thames from Docklands to Greenwich.

Drug doubles quit rate of smokers

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

A CHANCE observation by a psychiatrist has led to the discovery of a new drug for smokers that is twice as effective as nicotine patches in helping them to quit.

Zyban is an anti-depressant that has the unusual side effect of reducing the craving for nicotine. When given to smokers trying to give up, it doubled

University, California, who noticed that patients she was treating with the drug seemed less inclined to smoke.

Her observation was greeted with scepticism by colleagues but she conducted a pilot study published in 1994, which appeared to confirm her hunch. She has since continued to press for recognition of the

drug as a smoking cessation aid. Yesterday that recognition came in the shape of a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* of 900 smokers who tried to stop.

Of those given a nicotine patch 16 per cent were still not smoking a year later. But the figure rose to 30 per cent of those treated with Zyban.

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Patten is Blair's favourite in race for 'Mr Europe'

CHRIS PATTEN, the former governor of Hong Kong and one-time chairman of the Conservative Party, has emerged as a contender for the post of Europe's new and influential foreign policy supremo. Allies of Mr Patten, 55, one of the leading figures on the Tory left, believe he is well-suited to the post, and one senior European diplomat yesterday described his prospects

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
AND ANDREW GRICE

as "strong". He has also been tipped as a possible member of the European Commission, but becoming Europe's first "high representative" is seen as an alternative. Friends said he would be keen on either job, as he is reluctant to return to Westminster politics.

Potentially the "Mr Europe" post is much more powerful than that of a commissioner, since the holder would aim to ensure a swift co-ordinated EU response to crises in trouble-spots such as Bosnia and Kosovo. The creation of the post is designed to answer Henry Kissinger's famous question: "Who do you call when you want to call Europe?" Britain can expect to have a

big say in the appointment because of its prominent role in security matters, and Tony Blair's enthusiasm for a European defence identity. There are few declared candidates, although Carlos Westerholt, a former Spanish foreign minister and EU representative in Bosnia, has entered the race.

Also interested is the former Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring. Although experienced

and admired on the international stage, Mr Spring suffers the disadvantage of coming from a neutral country.

Mr Blair is keen to appoint pro-EU Tories to key jobs as part of his drive to end "tribal" politics – and to highlight the Tory split over Europe.

Currently leading a commission into reforms of the Royal Ulster Constabulary at Mr Blair's request, Mr Patten

has foreign policy experience, having served as minister for overseas development, and as governor of Hong Kong. His tough line against the Chinese divides opinion. Some EU leaders argue that his aggressiveness then hinders ill for the consensus-building required of the job; others believe that only a tough operator can forge a convincing EU foreign policy.

However, Mr Patten's pros-

pects depend on a complicated patchwork of horse-trading, with a range of top jobs due to be decided in the summer including the president of the Commission and secretary-general of Nato.

The creation of the "Mr Europe" job stems from the failure of Europe to assert itself in the former Yugoslavia, and the reliance on a sometimes reluctant American leadership.



Patten: Tipped for top job

Cable car pilot not guilty of killings

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE PILOT of a US surveillance aircraft was acquitted yesterday on all charges relating to the cable car disaster that killed 20 people in an Italian ski resort last year in a verdict that revived the shock and resentment felt in Italy.

The acquittal was greeted with cheers from the man's family in the courtroom and silence and tears from relatives of the victims. The Marine jet sliced through the cables of the ski lift during a low-flying training flight, sending all those inside to their deaths at the northern ski resort of Cavalese on 3 February last year.

The pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, was charged with involuntary manslaughter and a series of offences, including destruction of property and dereliction of duty, which could have brought an aggregate prison sentence of more than 20 years.

Yesterday, however, after a two-week court martial at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and almost eight hours of deliberation, the eight members of the military jury acquitted the pilot on all charges.

The prosecution cited the presence of a video-camera on the flight to support the theory that the captain – whose last flight this was before his trans-



Stunned relatives of one of the victims of the cable car disaster leaving the courtroom at Camp Lejeune yesterday

Randy Davey/Reuters

fer to fighter pilot training – was out to show bravado and test the limits of his flying expertise.

Prosecution lawyers also claimed that the aircraft's four-man crew had tampered with the camera, destroying an incriminating video and replacing it with a blank.

In acquitting Captain Ashby, the jury appeared to accept the

arguments of his defence counsel that the accident was caused by an optical illusion, which made objects seem further away than they were.

The defence also argued that equipment may have malfunctioned and that when the pilot realised he was flying too close to the ground, he adjusted the aircraft's height – a measure, they said, that he would not have taken if he had set out to flout the regulations.

In the course of the trial, it emerged that the Marines used US military maps that did not show cables, rather than local maps which did, and that there was confusion in the command about the altitude regulations for low flying. The local com-

mander was removed soon after the accident.

The disaster caused an upsurge of anti-American feeling in Italy to the point where President Bill Clinton offered an official apology. Residents of Cavalese and other Alpine regions overflowed by US military aircraft complained that pilots habitually broke the rules

on low flying and disregarded the safety of local people.

Yesterday's verdict was expected to precipitate a resurgence of the hostility towards the United States being voiced in Italy – hostility that will only be compounded if, as is forecast, the court martial of the aircraft's navigator is now dropped as well.

BY STEPHEN VINES

in Hong Kong

THE GOVERNMENT of the oil-rich state of Brunei has been secretly engaged in a three-month salvage operation that has yielded a treasure trove of Chinese porcelain, jade and gold from a shipwreck.

The Singapore Straits Times quoted Gunawardena Nalin, chief engineer of the barge Morine Lodge, which was the operation's nerve-centre, as saying 60 to 70 people were involved. A Brunei naval vessel kept away intruders.

The ceramics are believed to be from the Ming dynasty (1368 to 1644). Jade was also found. Mr Nalin said some consisted of uncut stones the size of a man's fist. As the operation was coming to an end, gold ingots also came to light but the divers were told to leave them for another team to recover.

The value of the haul is not known, because experts from Brunei and French museums, who were involved in the operation, have refused to comment. But it appears to be an important find. A Singaporean ceramics expert believes the ship was on an export mission from China.

The operation, which took place in the middle of last year but has only just come to light, was undertaken just as Brunei started to feel the chill of the Asian financial crisis and was being forced into unaccustomed economies.

Kurd protesters were shot in back by Israeli guards

BY IMRE KARACS
in Berlin



THE INVESTIGATION into the fatal shooting of four Kurdish protesters in front of the Israeli general consulate in Berlin last month was plunged into controversy yesterday amid German hints that the Israelis lied about the event.

According to German witnesses, the Israeli guards fired at demonstrators as they were leaving the building. Two of the victims were shot from behind, say the German policemen who bad been on guard.

Israel had always maintained that its guards had fired in self-defence, fearing that the building was about to be stormed by demonstrators enraged by the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

Kurdish newspapers had reported that Israel's secret service, Mossad, had played a role in the affair.

Kurdish protesters occupied several diplomatic missions throughout Europe, smashing furniture and holding some diplomats hostage. Israel said its guards opened fire in Berlin because the consulate was about to be overrun.

But yesterday, speaking before a committee of Berlin's regional parliament, Hans-Jürgen Karge, the state prosecutor leading the investigation, said the Israeli account did not tally with statements of German policemen. Due to the "contra-

dictions", he could not confirm the Israeli view that the Kurds were shot in self-defence.

Mr Karge said German police had reported that the two Israeli guards had opened fire

on the crowd outside the building, and not within the consulate, as the Israelis said. While Israel claims its guards shot in the air or aimed at protesters' legs, Mr Karge confirmed that two of the victims were hit in the head by bullets.

Mr Karge did not dispute the claim that self-defence must have played some role, in view of the violent nature of the protest. "But prosecutors cannot definitively say whether this was true for the whole sequence of events," he added.

Although the Greens in Berlin have called for a commission of inquiry, there is little chance of a full investigation as the guards enjoyed diplomatic immunity and both have returned to Israel.

IN BRIEF

Nigeria frees 47 political prisoners

NGERIA'S OUTGOING military government freed at least 47 political prisoners on death row for allegedly planning a coup against former dictator General Sani Abacha. The move was an attempt to calm unrest by militants who want a separate state for the Yoruba of south-west Nigeria.

Cannibal sentenced to death

ANIAN in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan was sentenced to death for murdering two victims before eating their flesh. Pavel Gorobets had admitted murdering his aunt, Viktor Grekhanov, and his girlfriend, Valentina Kashina, and turning them into "meat cutlets".

Mass suicide attempt in jail

TWENTY-SIX jail inmates stabbed themselves in the stomach in an attempted mass suicide to protest at prison conditions in Kazakhstan. The attempted suicides, with handmade knives, took place in Attyrau, 900 miles west of the capital, Astana, the interior Ministry said.

Snake assault conviction upheld

THE MONTANA Supreme Court has upheld the assault conviction of Michael Roullier, who used his poisonous snake to ward off two police officers trying to arrest him in 1996. To stop one officer using pepper spray, he threatened suicide by turning the snake on himself.

Australian settler's relic found

The gravestone of a mother and her baby who died in 1803 was found yesterday beneath Sydney's skyscrapers yards from where white settlement began in Sydney Cove in 1788. Very few artefacts found in the city date from before 1810.

Nursery expels Arab infant

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

THIS WILL not look good on his curriculum vitae. At a later age, Wassim Huri, an Israeli-Arab from Beersheba in southern Israel, will have to admit he was expelled from school.

It happened earlier this week when Alona Ben Sheetrit, one of Wassim's teachers, told Israel's Channel Two television: "I was under pressure. I told parents I could no longer receive their son in pre-school."

His career prospects are unlikely to be damaged. For a start Wassim is not yet two years old.

The reason Ms Ben Sheetrit, who is also the pre-school director of the school, asked him to leave was that two Jewish parents complained that they did not want their children to play with an Arab.

Yakov Terner, the mayor of Beersheba, immediately appealed to the nursery school teacher to reinstate the infant. His father, Philip Huri, an engineer, said he would not let his son go back to a kindergarten

that has caused his family such pain and shame.

Ms Ben Sheetrit now has second thoughts. She now says she made a mistake. She told Israel's Channel Two television: "I was under pressure. I told parents I could no longer receive their son in pre-school."

"Many teachers have called us," said Mr Huri. "Everything has worked out fine. My wife is choosing a new pre-school today."

The Israeli Education Ministry said it was wrong to have expelled the infant but added it could take no action because the kindergarten was privately owned.

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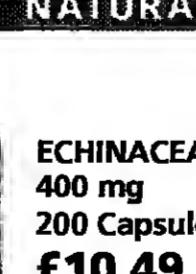
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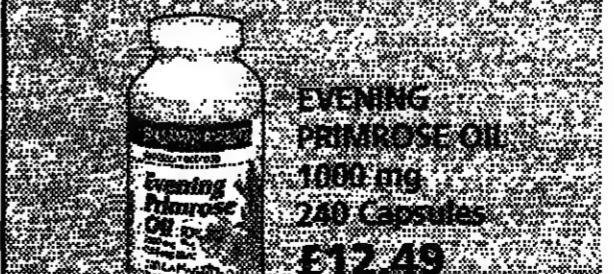


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Suicide ends a tragic tale of love and snobbery

A 13-YEAR-LONG tale of love, compassion, prejudice and snobbery has been brought to a Shakespearean close in a shabby apartment in St Etienne in the centre of France.

Marie Arbani, 43, was rescued from prostitution in 1987 by an investigating judge who then fell in love with her.

He was later dismissed for dishonouring his profession. Early this week Marie tried to rescue the judge.

She killed herself, apparently in the belief that her death would enable him to resume his ruined career.

Marie's body was discovered on Thursday by Philippe Le Friant, the former judge, who was no longer her lover but was still her closest friend.

Mr Le Friant was bounded out of the legal profession in 1988 for breaking a few procedural rules to help Marie, who had been "sold" into prostitution by her husband when in her twenties.

Mainly, the judge insisted, he was persecuted out of professional snobbery, even though he and Marie did not become lovers until after he was dismissed.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

The couple had written a book together, *The Judge and the Prostitute*.

They had twice gone on hunger strike to press his claim for reinstatement. They had been the subject of dozens of articles and television programmes in France.

Mr Le Friant began a long campaign for his reinstatement, which appeared to have succeeded when he was granted a pardon by the late President, François Mitterrand, in 1993.

No suitable post was offered to him by the judicial establishment, however.

It seemed that he was about to be employed when the government changed in 1997 and the new Justice Minister, Ms Guigou, put his case on hold.

After his dismissal, Philippe and Marie became lovers, living together from 1998 to 1995.

Even after they split, they remained friends and Marie went on hunger strike with him to dramatise his grievances last year and again in January. She appeared increasingly depressed, however, and convinced that she was to blame for all that had happened.

Disciplinary procedures were started against him. The following year he was dismissed.



The former judge Philippe Le Friant and Marie Arbani, the prostitute he rescued

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Serbs are trapped in Kosovo stand-off

MORE THAN 300 Yugoslav police backed by armoured vehicles were camped out yesterday on the edge of territory held by Kosovo rebels, awaiting the release of a Serb soldier held by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The tense stand-off followed a shootout in which two Serbian brothers were killed. The soldier, the 21-year-old son of one of the brothers, shot by the KLA, and about 11 other Serbs were reported to be trapped in the small Serb enclave of Mijalje, held by the KLA.

Hundreds of Albanian villagers living in the area began to leave their homes seeking shelter elsewhere as the afternoon wore on. They feared military action by police and hundreds of Yugoslav soldiers, backed by tanks, deployed on the hills nearby.

The civilians, mostly women and children carrying plastic bags, walked purposefully across fields and railway tracks seeking refuge with friends and relatives. They said that more than 1,000 people were leaving the area.

"We are afraid there will be an attack here," said Zyner, who was driving out a tractor-trailer loaded with women and children. "We have had no problems with the police in the past but the children are scared." His home village, Durvar, is shared by Serbs and Albanians. "We speak to each other - it's not too friendly, but there were no problems," he said.

According to international monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Radivoj Mirovic and his brother Ljubisa were shot dead when they tried to run a KLA check-point in the village of Mijalje.

In Moscow, meanwhile, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, failed to gain a commitment from Russia to contribute

BY EMMA DALY
in Mijalje

troops to a future Nato-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.

Russia and Britain had agreed jointly to make sure that the Serbs and Kosovo Albanians turned up at the next round of the peace talks on 15 March and to ensure they did not breach the ceasefire in the meantime.

However, Russia's foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, was sticking to Moscow's formula that, since Yugoslavia was a sovereign state, Russian troops could only go into Kosovo at Belgrade's invitation.

"Speaking for myself," said Mr Cook, "I would warmly welcome a Russian presence in any international force necessary to implement a peace agreement in Kosovo. It is for Russia to decide whether it wants to take part."

"But Russia was a valued partner in Bosnia and would be a valued partner in Kosovo," he said.

The Foreign Secretary repeated that Britain was willing to commit 8,000 troops.

Mr Cook said Russian troops had worked alongside the Nato command structure in Bosnia and there had been no problem.

A similar arrangement could be worked out for Kosovo.

In a move certain to exacerbate tensions with Serbia, Montenegro announced it is unilaterally abolishing entry visa requirements.

The decision allows visa-free travel into Montenegro, which along with Serbia forms the Yugoslav federation.

Serbia insists on visas from foreigners and has already rejected numerous appeals to relax the requirements, in spite of the damage it has inflicted on Montenegro's once-prosperous tourism sector.

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Berlin's salon society prepares a refined welcome

EUROPEAN TIMES
BERLIN

EVERY ONCE in a while, a luxury hotel, shop or opulent restaurant opens in this distinctly proletarian metropolis, claiming direct descent from some famous institution of the golden age between the wars.

At great cost, the building would have been assembled, after a painstaking search for the authentic bricks of the original and exact replicas of chandeliers and marble cherubs. The locals turn up in their thousands to gape, and the owners wait for the real customers. Many are still waiting. Berlin is vibrant, cosmopolitan, in parts loaded and full of scorn for the provinces. But what it lacks is people with a sense of style.

Post-war construction in both halves of the city has been hideous: featureless concrete housing estates facing off across the line of the Wall. There was no great demand for anything else – not many connoisseurs of any kind were left. The Nazis took care of the Roaring Twenties set. The acute bourgeoisie had been largely Jewish. The decadent



Countess von Hardenberg

aristocracy were driven out and the Communist lords of the East mopped up the remnants, or drove them into the West. Only the occupying powers kept the old order's flag flying.

"The British led very elegant households," remembered Countess Isa von Hardenberg, who arrived in Berlin from Hamburg 14 years ago. And then the occupiers left, too.

Countess von Hardenberg, whose husband hails from a great Berlin family, felt lonely. She set about recreating the society of old, or at least the appearance of one for clients.

"At first it was difficult to meet their expectations," she said.

An international company

would ask her to organise a reception, but all she could find was potato salad and sour plonk. But when the Prince of Wales came to visit in 1991, she got the contract to organise the royal dinner party. And slowly, the society she craves is be-

ginning to emerge. In the past three years, Berlin has witnessed an influx of blue blood – there is once again a Hohenzollern in residence and the nearby Brandenburg forests echo with the sound of the bugle, as hunts give chase.

Berlin is becoming a city of salons, with the drawing room of the countess's villa in the

IMRE KARACS



The return of Germany's government to the Reichstag is reviving memories of Berlin's golden age. *Reuters*

Road to Mandalay gives up its secrets

INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered a series of mass graves on the Burmese border that may contain the remains of scores of British and American servicemen.

Experts say the graves of the servicemen killed in the Second World War, demonstrate for the first time the extent to which the Allies co-operated with the Chinese to repulse Japan's advance into southern Asia. The graves also reveal the heavy casualties they suffered.

The graves under investigation are grouped around the start of the "Stilwell Road". This 300-mile highway was hacked through the mountains and jungles of north-east India and Burma on the orders of the American General Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell to get supplies to the troops of Chiang Kai-shek, the nationalist Chinese warlord fighting the Japanese from bases in southern China.

With Indian labourers and as the graves have revealed – thousands of Chinese troops, British and American engineers completed the road in late 1944.

Hundreds of workers died from enemy action, malaria and malnutrition. Their bodies were often buried in hasty, unmarked graves. The Chinese soldiers who formed screen around the construction workers, fending off increasingly frantic Japanese attacks, were buried where they fell. Even keeping the road open was difficult, and led to its being nicknamed the "five men a mile" trail.

Tage Tada, deputy director of the government research department of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, started exploring the area last year. His team has found and excavated 11 graves in recent weeks. One is believed to be that of a Chinese commander, the others

BLAISON BURKE
in Itamarabar

are of Chinese soldiers and Indian labourers. The remains are being identified by cap badges and belt buckles, which have survived burial in the rich jungle earth.

Mr Tada believes that it is only another of time before his team finds the remains of British and American troops, including some from the "Chindit" fury. Their leader, Major-General Orde Wingate, led them on guerrilla-style campaigns. It is likely that British troops operating with Wingate behind enemy lines brought their dead, the area where the road was being built. Possibly they wanted them to be buried on soil that was part of the British Empire rather than leaving them in the jungle, Mr Tada said.

After the war, the road fell into disuse.

Mr Tada said that although the Indian government had provided some funds for the team more money was desperately needed. This is an important hit of history and it would be nice people remembered it properly. I am hoping that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will get involved or maybe the Chinese.

At present, the only memorial is a small sign four miles west of the small town of Ledo, which commemorates the start of "The Road to Mandalay". The road is now impassable.

The Ministry of Defence said last night it would look into the possibility that the graves of British servicemen might be among those found by Mr Tada.

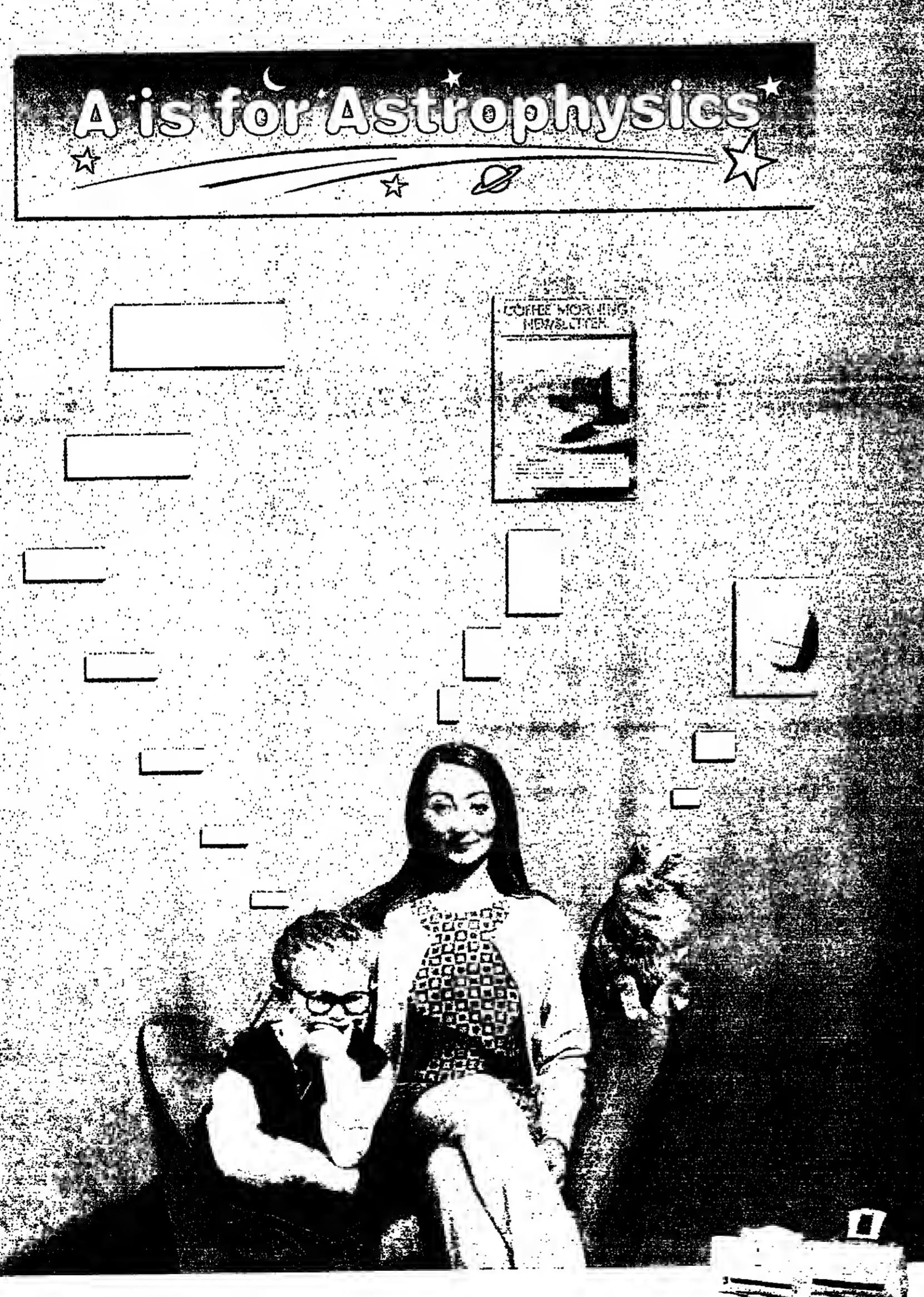
However, organisations representing British veterans who fought in Burma said they believed they had accounted for all the casualties.

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BUSINESS

Europe

BRIEFING

Change brings car sales slump

SALES of new cars fell by half last month compared with a year ago, according to figures published yesterday that highlighted the impact of the new bi-annual registration system. New car registrations last month totalled 34,040, a 52 per cent fall on the 177,133 sold in February 1998, said the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Year-to-date registrations are 265,382, down 35 per cent.

The industry said the figures were no cause for panic as they reflected the launch of the new system of registration. British-built cars took 27.3 per cent of the market in February, down from a 32.4 per cent at the same time last year. Ford remained the biggest seller.

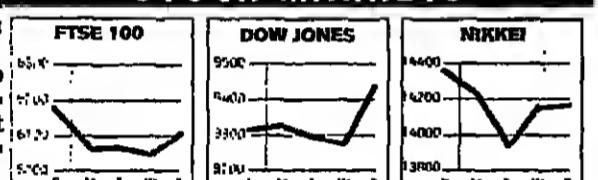
Reveal Servisair bids, says Amey

AMEY, the business services group mounting an £80m hostile bid for Servisair yesterday called on the airline services company's management to come clean about the identity of alternative bidders. Brian Staples, Amey chief executive (pictured), said: "We think this board needs to get on with things and stop wasting shareholders' money on their defence. Plenty of time has gone by since our offer [on 22 January]. Speculation about a rival to Amey's 200p-a-share cash bid has centred on Compass Partners. Servisair closed unchanged at 212p.

Profits fall at NZ media group

WILSON & HORTON, the New Zealand media group owned by independent Newspapers, owners of *The Independent*, yesterday announced a 7.6 per cent drop in operating profits to NZ\$85m on flat sales of NZ\$438m. Cameron O'Reilly, Wilson & Horton chairman, said the results were encouraging given the depressed New Zealand advertising market in the second half of last year, adding that there were signs that lower interest rates had restored confidence to the New Zealand economy.

STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Chg (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr. to date
FTSE 100	6101.40	53.10	0.88	6319.80	6599.20	2.63
S&P 500	5313.80	27.80	0.53	5970.90	6247.60	3.16
FTSE 350	2699.70	33.70	0.82	2918.70	2310.60	2.71
FTSE All Share	2902.10	22.21	0.80	2862.52	2143.60	2.75
FTSE SmallCap	2789.40	6.90	0.30	2793.80	1834.60	3.55
FTSE MidCap	1250.70	1.70	0.14	1517.10	1046.30	4.42
S&P AM	832.10	2.20	0.27	1146.90	761.30	1.14
FTSE Utilities 100	2711.53	55.44	2.19	3032.27	2018.15	2.14
FTSE Utilities 300	1212.56	13.27	1.11	1331.00	880.03	2.00
FTSE All Services	3633.49	155.39	4.16	3661.79	2400.33	1.64
FTSE All Services	16183.45	13.09	0.09	17352.35	12787.90	1.00
FTSE All Services	9912.76	-0.64	-0.62	11926.16	6544.79	3.53
FTSE All Services	4076.72	-18.95	-0.40	6171.81	3833.71	1.85
S&P 100	1243.88	15.81	1.29	1283.81	923.32	1.28
FTSE All Services	2799.27	34.07	1.50	2533.40	1357.09	0.29
FTSE All Services	6023.80	73.46	1.19	7317.80	5320.90	1.70
FTSE All Services	9430.27	275.00	3.00	12339.14	4575.69	6.56
FTSE All Services	3292.96	-11.43	-0.35	3713.21	2695.72	2.16
FTSE All Services	515.92	-3.24	-0.62	600.61	365.58	1.99
FTSE All Services	4087.95	83.83	2.09	4040.94	2891.31	1.91
FTSE All Services	35148.00	10000.00	2.93	39170.00	24175.00	1.16
FTSE All Services	10214.35	8934.30	12.67	10789.60	6869.90	1.77
FTSE All Services	5103.58	-5.62	-0.11	5581.70	3732.57	1.55
FTSE All Services	552.29	-2.20	-0.41	651.95	277.37	0.27
FTSE All Services	2895.20	-9.60	-0.16	2948.20	2386.70	3.21

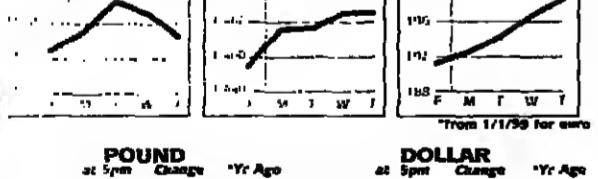
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr. chg	1 year	10 year	Chg (%)	Long bond	Yr. chg
Short Sterling	4.14	-0.01	4.14	-2.10	-0.71	-1.42	-5.85
UK 10 Year Gilt	4.14	-0.01	4.14	-2.10	-0.71	-1.42	-5.85
US Long Bond	5.55	-0.01	5.65	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
German money market rates	4.14	-0.01	4.14	-2.10	-0.71	-1.42	-5.85

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Chg	Yr. Ago	Index	Chg	Yr. Ago	West Rd
11.65	0.49	13.04	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
1.95	-1.80	1.96	GDP	163.40	2.40	159.57
5.17	-0.12	6.35	Base Rates	5.50	7.25	5.75

Off at 5pm

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	£/US\$	£/Euro	£/Dollar	£/Yen	£/Swiss	£/French	£/Italian	£/Spanish	£/Dutch	£/Norwegian	£/Portuguese	£/Saudi Arabia	£/Singapore	£/South Africa	£/Spain	£/Swedish	£/Swiss	£/Thailand	£/Turkish Lira	£/USA (\$)	£/Mexican Peso
United Kingdom	1.5801	1.2788	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
United States	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
Germany	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
France	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
Spain	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
Italy	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
Netherlands	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
Australia	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476	0.7476
Sweden	1.2788	1.5801	1.6475	82.78	0.7500	0.7476	0.7														

Europe slips up in the banana war

THE BANANA wars now raging between Europe and the US make it very tempting to wheel out the old high horse and climb aboard. How dare the perfidious Americans put the innocent Scottish woollen industry and Britain's makers of scented candles out of business in an apparently ridiculous and petty dispute over whose bananas Europeans ought to buy?

It just so happens that the Latin American banana importer the Clinton Administration has chosen to throw its weight behind, Chiquita, is controlled by a company that has made hundreds of millions of dollars worth of political donations to both Democrats and Republicans. The politics of the pork barrel is threatening the livelihood of Caribbean and West African banana growers, to whom Europe has an obligation from colonial days.

As always, however, it is not quite as simple as that. The Americans have a point, for all the Chiquita influence. The EU, like the US, has an obligation to abide strictly by the rules of the World Trade Organisation. It was so influential in creating both Europe and America must walk their talk on free trade if they expect others to adhere to it.



OUTLOOK

International trading rules and dispute procedures too. The EU's initial response to the WTO finding that its banana import regime did discriminate against the Latin Americans was slow and grudging. On the other hand, the US response to the latest WTO delay is equally unhelpful. It plays to the gallery of domestic politics. Both sides need their heads banging together. Without question, the prosperity of the post-war years has been fostered by the increasing liberalisation of trade. The US government has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to free trade principles as the best and fairest engine of world growth, de-

spite the occasional tactical setback for sordid political reasons.

The Europeans, too, bang the same drum, though admittedly not quite so enthusiastically. Why should either side want to threaten this prosperity over an issue as trivial as banana eating – a fruit by the way, which neither region produces in any significant quantity?

Again, there is a subtext. Trade tensions always ratchet up when there are big imbalances, as there are now in trades. Strong US growth has resulted in a record trade deficit, while the feeble EU economic recovery has added to Europe's trade surplus.

While American policy-makers have, of necessity, adopted the view that it is now a good thing to have a huge current account deficit – it keeps inflation low, contributes to consumer choice and propels up the world economy, runs the spiel – there is no evidence, except perhaps in "middle of Britain", of the Europeans adopting a similarly enlightened approach.

In other words, this trade dispute is the flip side of a coin which already has Americans lambasting the Europeans for failure to do anything worthwhile to stimulate their

sluggish economies. As if to remind us of this fact, the European Central Bank again left interest rates unchanged yesterday. It is unfortunate that Britain should arbitrarily be hit more than others in Europe by the nature of the US sanctions, but it is also true that while Fortress Europe remains so paralysed by inactivity, the Americans have the better of the argument.

BAA has been attracted by what the retail wizards know as "dwell time". The vagaries of air traffic control and the check-in requirements of airlines mean that the average passenger at Terminal One has 50 minutes to kill before a flight. BAA would naturally prefer them to be eating at Harry Ramsden's, or even better shopping in the Harrods store, than reading a newspaper. So retailing and catering space is maximised at the expense of some-

thing peaceful to sit down.

Holidaymakers on Le Shuttle

about to enjoy the same selling experience. BAA has discovered that their dwell time can be anything up to 60 minutes. At Calais the scope for emptying passengers' pockets is endless. The terminal itself is vast and even if duty-free is axed, duty-paid prices of beer and bacca on the French side of La Manche will remain 35 per cent below high street prices over here.

Folkestone is slightly more tricky proposition, since it is a much smaller terminal. Positions held by many active fund managers have been greatly narrowed relative to the benchmark, if only because this seems to be the only way of keeping up with the overtly indexed mania, which of course it is.

Even active fund managers have felt obliged to follow what Tony Dye of Phillips and Drew calls "closet indexation". Positions held by many active fund managers have been greatly narrowed relative to the benchmark, if only because this seems to be the only way of keeping up with the overtly indexed mania, which of course it is.

As yet, there is little evidence of attention switching back to the small cap sector, but it will come.

Smaller companies are one of the few areas of the market where there is still good value to be had.

As the active fund managers come back into the smaller-company sector, that will create its own benchmarks, and the passive funds will have to follow suit.

East Midlands jobs and name disappear in PowerGen revamp

By MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

POWERGEN has embarked on a major overhaul of East Midlands Electricity, the regional supply company it bought last year, which is expected to result in several hundred job losses and the disappearance of the East Midlands name.

The distribution arm of East Midlands, which operates the local network of wires, is being slimmed down from 23 separate sites into one central headquarters and five regional centres.

PowerGen did not say how many job losses were likely. Analysts estimate that the headcount could be reduced by 300,

or 10 per cent of the workforce.

There will be a major rebranding exercise to replace the East Midlands name with PowerGen's brand, involving repainting vans and reprinting bills and stationery.

News of the overhaul came as PowerGen said that the sale of its two coal-fired stations, Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge, would reduce profits by £60m a year.

The reduction will be offset exactly by lower gas costs after the renegotiation of supply con-

tracts for its Connor's Quay gas-fired plant in North Wales.

PowerGen shares slipped by 2.5 per cent to 867.5p as the group said that the mild weather and lower power station payments helped reduce profits by £143m in the financial year to last April, and PowerGen expects the sale of the stations to raise between £1bn and £1.5bn. The sale will reduce PowerGen's share of the generating market to 14 per cent.

Ed Wallis, chairman, said the group aimed to increase its overseas generating portfolio from 8,000 megawatts to 10,000 megawatts, and is interested in buying existing power stations in Australia, Thailand, India and China.



Ed Wallis: Seeking opportunities to expand overseas

Hillsdown dashes investors' hopes

HILLSDOWN, the food group best known for the Typhoo tea brand, yesterday dashed investors' hopes of a share buy-back or special dividend after market conditions forced it to scrap plans to sell its furniture and potato divisions, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

"It seems unlikely in current market conditions, that we will be able to achieve a major disposal, which would be a necessary requirement before we would recommend a return of cash to shareholders," said Michael Teacher, Hillsdown chief executive.

The news effectively stalls Hillsdown's restructuring,

which began last year when the company spun off housebuilder Fairview and the Terranova chilled foods business.

Meanwhile Sir John Nott, the former defence secretary, announced that he would be retiring as chairman after the annual meeting in May. He will be replaced by Peter Jacobs, the former chief executive of British Sugar and Bupa.

In the year to December Hillsdown reported a fall in operating profits from continuing activities to £80.2m from £100.5m. Trading profits in the core grocery business rose 4 per cent to £57.1m. The shares closed up 3.5p at 73.5p.

THE INDEPENDENT

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John M. Morris

News Analysis: Eurostar's revenues are up and Eurotunnel is acting to combat the threatened loss of duty-free sales

Double boost for Channel Tunnel

BY PHILIP THORNTON AND
MICHAEL HARRISON

THE CHANNEL Tunnel received a double boost yesterday after Eurostar reported a big increase in passenger revenues and Eurotunnel unveiled plans to combat the threatened loss of duty-free sales this summer.

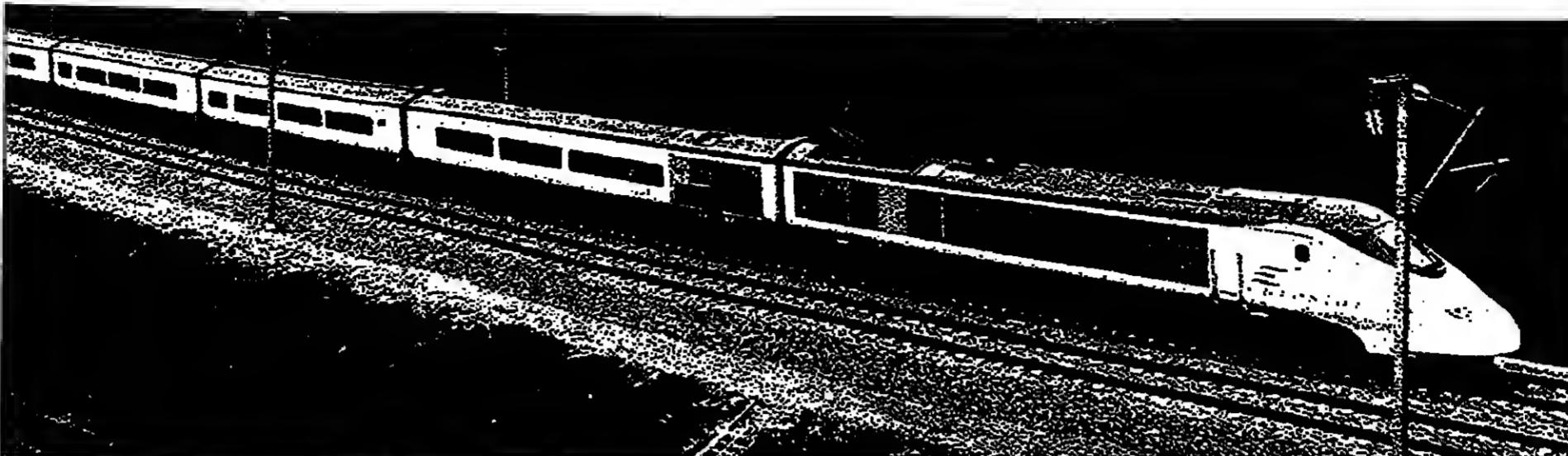
An aggressive drive to attract business travellers and a radical cost-cutting programme helped increase revenues by 29 per cent at Eurostar (UK), the British arm of the high-speed train service to Paris and Brussels.

Meanwhile Eurotunnel announced that the retail facilities at its Folkestone and Calais terminals are being taken over by the airports operator BAA in a 15-year deal. Sir John Egan, the BAA chairman, outlined an ambitious plan to generate at least £100m in sales by next year even if duty-free is abolished across Europe in July.

BAA intends to start selling a wider range of products, including fashion accessories, compact discs and photographic equipment, while plans for the Calais terminal include outlets specialising in fine wines and "connoisseur cognacs".

Eurostar (UK), which is now controlled by British Airways and National Express, said it was on target to break even in 2003, a decade after its launch, as it published figures showing it had cut its operating loss to £95m in 1998 from £135m the previous year.

Hamish Taylor, its managing director, said he had abandoned passenger number targets and was concentrating on raising revenue and yield. He said revenues across the whole business, including the French and Belgian arms, had risen 29 per



Eurostar (UK), the British arm of the high-speed train service to Paris and Brussels, says it is on target to break even by 2005, a decade after its launch

cent to £350m. Eurostar (UK) had cut costs by 10 per cent through a recruitment freeze and axing all peripheral research projects.

He said the company was on target to break even by 2005, the date given to the Commons Select Transport Committee last year by Inter-Capital and Regional Rail (ICRR), the consortium that had the franchise to operate the service until 2010.

But he said: "Let's not kid ourselves. We won't get 29 per cent this year but we still expect improvements although not at the same level. I don't think that because we have knocked £40m off losses we will carry on doing that."

The profit forecast includes the benefit of the opening of the first stage of the upgraded Channel Tunnel rail link, which will wipe 15 minutes off the journey time from London to Paris when it is completed in 2003.

Mr Taylor refused to be

drawn into the argument over the failure to provide promised regional services north of London. The Government last year launched an independent inquiry into the viability of these services after the Select Com-

mittee criticised an ICRR report that said regional services would be unprofitable while favouring new services from Heathrow Airport. British Airways is a shareholder in ICRR.

"We are looking at the eco-

nomics of all the options and co-operating with the Department of Transport, because the independent review will look at wider economic benefits and we welcome that because it enables someone to judge from the

point of view of the broader benefits of the service," said Mr Taylor.

Eurostar also said passenger numbers rose 6 per cent last year to 6.3 million, while its share of the business traveller

market rose by 2.8 per cent on the Paris service and 4.2 per cent on the Brussels service, where investment had cut 30 minutes off the journey time.

Eurotunnel is Europe's second-biggest duty-free retailer

after Heathrow airport. Last year its retail income reached about £170m, the vast bulk of which came from duty-free. There are fears that this could slump by two-thirds if duty-free is scrapped, putting pressure on Eurotunnel to raise prices on its car shuttle.

But BAA's retail director, Brian Colley, said it was confident of stemming the loss of sales. "There are 12.5 million passengers a year using Eurotunnel and even if duty-free goes there will still be a significant business left."

Duty-paid prices are the Calais terminal are still about 35 per cent cheaper than high street prices in the UK, he said, giving British travellers an incentive to shop on their way home.

At the Folkestone terminal, which is much smaller, BAA plans to invest £7m-£8m on improving the facilities and then seek planning permission to expand the site in order to open more outlets.

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Misys a
by last-1

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Tch	P/W	Code	52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Tch	P/W	Code
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																	
520 850 Abell's	68.0	5.8	184 Abell's	405	157	157	157	157	505 315 Abell's	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505
521 320 Absolut	300.0	15.6	147.1 Absolut	180	97	97	97	97	105 315 Absolut	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
522 115 Absolut	115.0	11.5	115 Absolut	100	50	50	50	50	115 315 Absolut	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
523 470 Absolut	705.0	14.2	264 Absolut	180	23	23	23	23	155 315 Absolut	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
524 265 Absolut	100.0	12.2	164 Absolut	180	23	23	23	23	155 315 Absolut	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
525 115 Absolut	115.0	11.5	115 Absolut	100	50	50	50	50	115 315 Absolut	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
526 115 Absolut	115.0	11.5	115 Absolut	100	50	50	50	50	115 315 Absolut	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
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562																	

Misys and RMC hit by last-minute deals

THE SPECTRE of rogue trades returned to haunt the stock market yesterday, with the software group Misys and the building materials giant RMC hit by some strange deals.

The two groups ended up as the two biggest fallers in the FTSE-250 due to a number of last-minute deals executed below the going price.

The trades are believed to have been part of a big programme order from a large institution and were not a deliberate attempt to manipulate the closing price.

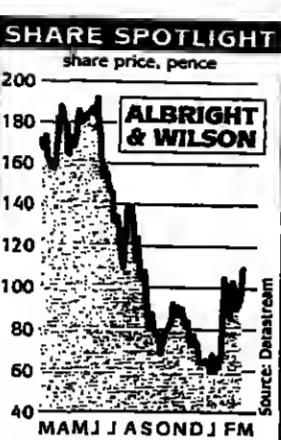
However, they could have a major impact on Misys' chances to return to the FTSE-100. The information technology company, valued at over £23.6bn, is a strong candidate to be included in the top index after next week's reshuffle.

However, yesterday's 4 per cent-plus slump could put paid to Misys' dreams of blue-

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA



ALBRIGHT & WILSON

that after months in the doldrums, the price could rally as producers contemplate price cuts. Shell, one of longest-suffering oil stocks, rose 18.75p to 349.5p. Its goliath rival BP Amoco was close behind, surging 45p to 902, as Lehman selected as its top oil pick for 1999.

The exploration companies were also buoyant, as renewed bid speculation mixed with the oil price optimism. British Petroleum, said to be stalked by a US predator, rose 10p to 115p. Premier Oil put on 1.25p to 11.75p amid vague takeover talk and a Williams de Broe 'buy' advice.

Enterprise drilled a 16.25p advance to 288p, supported by a Henderson Crosthwaite note, while LaSmo surged 7p to 129.75p. The two are in merger talks and developments are expected next week.

JXK Oil & Gas completed the party with a 1.75p rise to 8.5p on hopes that the Swiss group National Petroleum might increase its stake from its current 20.2 per cent.

Bid whispers spurred the chemical minnow Albright & Wilson to a 14p rise to 109p. There is talk of an imminent offer at 125p-130p a share from a foreign bidder. Rhodia, FMC, Solutia and a Moroccan company, OCP, were all mentioned.

Among the blue chips, the insurer Royal & SunAlliance shone with a 36.75p increase to 587.75p after good results and a £75m cash return pledge.

Williams, the security and fire group, burnt 16.75p to 348.5p due to disappointing results and worries over a possible exit from the FTSE 100.

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There is a growing feeling

that advised a switch into British Aerospace, up 4p to 398.5p, amid news of a defence link-up with Thomson, the French aerospace group.

The tiddlers' risers' table was dominated by Tadpole Technology, up 4p to 13.75p. The electronic equipment maker is set to launch a new product and some major contracts could be on the way.

Aegis attracted institutional interest following its recent results. The media agency put on 1.25p to 130.5p on massive volume of 14.4 million.

Infobank, an e-commerce company, soared 3.5p to 70.5p after securing a lucrative internet deal with the Stationery Office.

Athlone Extrusions, an Irish maker of chemical materials for the car and construction industry, shed 5.5p to 50p after warning of lower profits in the first half.

Deltron Electronics, unchanged at 100p yesterday, will today receive a cash from one of its directors, Francois Feldman, was set to receive an £800,000 cash payout following the electronic equipment group's purchase of a French rival, Euroindustry. However, he is now expected to take only £538,000 in cash and the remaining £262,000 in Deltron shares to take advantage of the company's depressed share price.

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Rolls-Royce's figures were good but not brilliant, sending the stock down 2.75p to 272.25p. Some houses

SEAG VOLUME: 1.14 billion
SEAG TRADES: 78,413
GILTS INDEX: 112.01 +0.24

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Dallaglio tackles detractors head on

A PICKLE thing, fame. Three months ago to the day, Lawrence Dallaglio was so obviously the flavour of the moment that Rick Stein might have been tempted to crash-tackle the England captain into the nearest pot and cook him whole.

Victory over a highly motivated band of Springbok record hunters not only appeared to justify Clive Woodward's long-term faith in Dallaglio's leadership skills, but also earned the Wasps flanker an undivided place in the nation's sporting pantheon.

One match later, he has he-

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

come a human dartboard; not only do his detractors accuse him of being unable to take decisions in the heat of battle – a serious problem for a captain – but they claim he does not tackle, which is a monstrous allegation to throw at any self-respecting loose forward.

Dallaglio has no urgent need to fight his corner, for the campaign against him is every bit as fatuous as the recent witch-hunt mounted against Martin

Johnson, but he has never been an enthusiastic practitioner of the backward step and he decided yesterday to fight the critical fire with a little heat of his own.

"I passed my maths pretty well at school and I know how many tackles I make," he said in Killiney as England finalised their preparations for tomorrow's Five Nations rumble with the up-and-ut-em Irish at Lansdowne Road. "I'm quite happy to take criticism on board – none of us are above criticism, after all – and I accept that we didn't meet the standards we set our-

selves against Scotland a couple of weekends ago. However, I wouldn't want to single out any one member of the team as being responsible for that performance, including myself."

"As an international player, you know when you've played well and when you've performed badly. I wasn't at all satisfied with my own efforts against the Scots but the same could be said for a good many of those senior players who took the field a fortnight ago. There are a lot of very good, experienced hands in the England side and I would not expect any

of them to be guilty of two bad ones in succession. Again, I include myself in that. I think you'll see a different England at Lansdowne Road, one that attempts to play an adventurous game but also does the simple things well and gets the basics absolutely right."

Woodward, the England coach, remarked earlier this week on the pressure being applied to the starting line-up by the bench replacements and foremost among those ambitious wannabees is Martin Corry, whose prodigious performances for Leicester have established him

as the form No 8 in the country. Nevertheless, Woodward never seriously considered making a back-row change, despite the pro-Corry bandwagon. "Lawrence, Richard Hill and Neil Back make up my favourite back row," he reiterated after Wednesday's training session at Blackrock.

The Irish, by contrast, were in happy go lucky mood yesterday, their management striking an intelligent balance between bullish optimism and open respect for their English foe. "England are one of the best sides in the world," pronounced Warren Gatland, the emerald Kiwi from the rugby-

loving farmlands of Waikato. "They will be a little disappointed with their own lack of consistency, I guess, but you can't ignore the fact that in the space of 16 months they've drawn with the All Blacks, lost by a point to the Wallabies in a game they should have won and beaten the world champions."

"Still, we're confident of giving a good account of ourselves. One of the questions I just asked the players in training was: 'Which of you doesn't feel he's a better player than his opposite number?' I can tell you that I didn't get many answers."

Maggs still knocking them over in midfield

Ireland's one-man demolition act will provide a stern test for England in Dublin. Chris Hewett reports

WHEN JEREMY GUSCOTT describes Kevin Maggs as the "silent assassin", he does so in the profoundly disconcerting knowledge that his blood brother from Bath is planning to liven up tomorrow afternoon's Ireland-England proceedings in Dublin with a touch of fratricide. If Guscott is the high-born Prince of Centres, his direct opponent at Lansdowne Road is the usurper from the wrong side of the West Country tracks: a ruthless bit of rough who has glimpsed the good things in life and decided they are his for the taking.

Maggs spent so much of his early career looking up at Guscott – or, rather, trying to locate him with a pair of binoculars as he glided off with the ball under one arm – that nothing would induce him more than to give his club colleague a taste of the good mud of Leinster this weekend. Certainly, he is both physically and mentally equipped to do so: the 22-year-old Bristolian has an unusual take on the "no pain, no gain" philosophy of rugby achievement, in so far as he believes the "pain" element to be the exclusive preserve of his opponents.

Which is precisely why he was able to perform the apparently unperformable at Wembley 13 days ago by running straight through the brick wall known as Scott Gibbs and reducing Swansea's pride and joy to a small pile of rubble that sat forlornly on the Welsh 22-metre line like some hastily constructed mountain-side memorial. Maggs also helped himself to a first-half try during that victory, which came as a blessed relief after five straight Five Nations' Championship defeats, and was so tickled by the experience that he caught the first Sunday morning train out of Paddington, rushed across Bristol to his parents' home and relived the moment on video.

"Almost as soon as I arrived, my mum phoned me to say John had resigned. I was very, very worried, I can tell you. It was while I was on holiday a few weeks later that the club went into receivership and the players were informed that their ex-

isting contracts would not, could not, be honoured. I decided then to move on. Richard had been interested and within a few days, both Bath and Gloucester got in touch. One meeting with Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, was

also knew that the coaching, the attitudes, the culture of success would be good for me. So it has proved. It hasn't been a good season by Bath standards and I'm not exactly proud of the fact that I've now been involved in both Bristol's and Bath's heavy-

Palmer, Halliday and De Glanville, let alone Guscott. But Robinson pitched for him on the strength of a majestic performance in adversity against the Springboks in Bloemfontein last June and has had no reason to regret it.

fields of rural New Zealand a year previously. Freshly selected by an Irish management previously unaware of his eligibility, he was packed off on a development tour of All Black country under Brian Ashton, the newly appointed national coach. It was there that he learned his greatest lesson: that if you show the slightest sign of weakness, good southern hemisphere opposition will bury you alive.

"That was such a desperately hard tour; I've never trained so much in my life and never played rugby in such difficult circumstances. The tour organiser set us into the heartlands, the real one-horse towns where the game is a way of life, and there was no mercy from the New Zealanders. It was a fight for survival, really, and we lost some of our games very heavily. A few of my colleagues on that trip have not featured in the Ireland set-up since."

"He's been a big plus," the coach agreed recently. "He's a heart and soul type and when things aren't going too well, you need that sort of honesty."

According to Maggs, whose maternal grandmother hailed from Limerick, the seminal experience of his career to date did not occur on the high veld of the Free State, but on the killing

"But you grow together as a team when you experience something like that and I think this current Irish side has gone up several levels over the last few matches. We're fit, our defence is getting stronger all the time and we have some world-class players in important positions. We're pretty relaxed about this game, actually, and that comes from confidence in each other. We'll discover a lot about ourselves this weekend."

Just as Guscott and Matt Perry, the other Bath regular in the England line-up, expect to discover one or two things about their club-mate, "It's nice to see Matt in the side at full-back," smiled Maggs, the old Bristol spirit coursing through his veins once again. "I've already had a word in his ear and he knows that when the first high ball goes up, I'll be under it like a shot. Well, it would be rude to back off, wouldn't it?"

France have been forced into making a late change to their team to face Wales at the Stade de France tomorrow. The Brive flanker, Olivier Magne, is suffering from a foot injury and his place in the back row is taken by the debutant Marc Raynaud, of Narbonne. It is the first time Magne has missed an international through injury since his debut in 1997.

Richmond have yet to decide whether to apply for an admittance order after admitting they have run up losses this year of a reported £1.5m.

Their owner Ashley Levett wants to reduce his stake in the club by up to 25 per cent and the club is looking into ways of raising the necessary £1.4m which would allow them to retain their present playing staff.

With weekly outgoings estimated at between £85,000 and £90,000, including the £15,000 rent they pay to Reading FC for use of the Madejski Stadium and its facilities, it is likely that the administrators would have to consider trimming the playing staff and cutting wages.

"There was no mercy from the New Zealanders. It was a fight for survival and we lost some of our games very heavily. A few of my colleagues on that trip have not featured in the Ireland set-up since"

enough. I knew straight away that the Recreation Ground was right for me.

"It was a bit uncomfortable, all the same. Bath represented everything I'd ever stood and fought against as a Bristol player: they were the enemy, simple as that; and like all the other Bristol blues, I'd suffered a hell of a lot because of them. But I

lost league defeats, but I've won in places where I'd only ever been hammered previously. I've got another two seasons after this and I'm looking forward to every minute of it."

Maggs was hardly an obvious target for Bath; his flamboyant, muscular, route one style did not sit easily in the grand tradition of Bees.

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Blow to British events

BRITAIN'S MAJOR international athletics meetings have been relegated.

At a press conference here yesterday, Istvan Gyulai, secretary general of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, confirmed that this season's meetings at Sheffield and Gateshead, formerly of grand prix status one and two respectively, would be reduced in status this year because they failed to generate sufficiently good results in 1998.

"Performances last year were below standard in both cases," said Gyulai, who accepted the re-grading would make it harder to attract top performers and sponsors. "If you are an athlete you are more ready to accept an invitation to a grand prix one meeting and it is more likely to get sponsorship and television coverage."

If the five Golden League meetings represent the Premiership of the IAAF season, the grand prix one meetings correspond to the Nationwide First Division. Sheffield thus

ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

In Maebashi, Japan

finds itself in the Second Division, and Gateshead, which is reduced to a permit status, in the Third Division.

It is an unluckily blow for UK Athletics, whose launch six weeks ago was marred by the news of Doug Walker's adverse doping test.

The IAAF also postponed any decision on the venue of the 2003 World Championships, for which London is the only bidder so far, to May to November.

The ailing International Amateur Athletic Federation president, Primo Nebiolo, has announced that he will stand again for the leadership of the sport's world body this year. The 76-year-old Italian, who has often been criticised for his autocratic style, has suffered from cancer for the past decade but has insisted it has not affected his ability to hold down the No 3 ranking job in world sport.

Monday, Sheffield's supposed pride of place within the National Academy of Sport network was revealed to be no more than a turn of phrase. Having been chosen as the site of the UK Sports Institute in December 1997, the city will not now be the national centre for any of the major Olympic sports.

The fact that the meeting at Qatar has been granted grand prix one status is not likely to ease the blow in British eyes.

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Royce takes on Olympic task

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

With a qualifying tournament next March at Milton Keynes, time is not on Royce's side. "It's an ambition fulfilled but it's all going to be a bit hectic."

Two players likely to feature in Royce's plans for Sydney will be in opposition at Cannock tomorrow – Sutton Coldfield's Jane Sixsmith and Slough's Karen Brown.

Slough, along with leaders Ipswich, have already secured their place in the end-of-season play-offs but for Sutton – in the relegation zone – defeat could be disastrous. Clifton Scottish Life, Slough's opponents on Sunday in a rearranged game, have also qualified for the play-offs. One point for Hightown at home to Ipswich would complete the top four places.

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Two players likely to feature in Royce's plans for Sydney will be in opposition at Cannock tomorrow – Sutton Coldfield's Jane Sixsmith and Slough's Karen Brown.

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SPORT

HENDRIE'S WEMBLEY WISH P29 • MAGGS THE DEMOLITION MAN P25

Noades cast as Palace saviour

CRYSTAL PALACE's debts stand at £20m, twice the level previously estimated, it was revealed last night. The new news makes the return of Ron Noades, the club's previous owner, more likely, especially if Mark Goldberg, Palace's chairman, cannot find substantial funds within the next three months to bail out the club. Noades himself said yesterday that he believed Palace were likely to move from administration to receivership soon, and he added that he could not rule out the possibility of a return to the club.

Palace's problems were made clear on Wednesday when Goldberg was forced to call in Buchler Phillips, a company rescue firm, in an attempt to enable

still be owed money from the purchases of Sasa Ceric for £1m and Nicky Rizzo for £300,000 respectively. As well as the transfers, a substantial sum is said to be owed to the Midland Bank - understood to be the club's main creditor - and money is still owed to Noades.

Up to £5m of this debt is understood to be unpaid transfer fees owed to a variety of clubs and which were staggered in instalment payments. Palace are thought to owe substantial sums to Juventus and Strasbourg for the multi-million pound transfers of Attilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano from Italy, and Valerien Ismael from France last season. Aston Villa and Liverpool may also

have been owed money from the

Palace's training ground and both the club shops - said yesterday that he could not envisage Goldberg ever being in a position to buy Selhurst Park from him. He added, however, that he would have no interest in selling Selhurst Park to other prospective buyers (including Wimbledon, Palace's tenants), even if Goldberg did not retain his option to buy it.

"As far as I'm concerned I will not allow anything to happen that will disadvantage Crystal Palace," Noades said. "The Selhurst Park ground is there for Crystal Palace to play on," he added. "I would not approve the transfer of the lease to Wimbledon."

When asked what he

thought the prospects for Palace were in the near future, he said: "It will go into receivership." Asked whether there was any possibility that he might return to the club in that situation, Noades said that he was happy trying to secure promotion from the Third Division for the club he now owns, Brentford. He added, however: "In football you don't discount anything."

The arrival of the administrators means that Palace are protected from creditors seeking winding-up orders for the next three months, but large question marks remain over the future of the club. Many of the first-team squad are likely to be put up for sale and there may also be wage

cuts and redundancies among the non-playing staff.

Goldberg has attempted to portray the arrival of the administrators in a positive light, insisting that their help will ensure that the club emerges "fitter, healthier and more efficient" from the experience.

He said yesterday that he

was ready to sell some of his 85 per cent majority stake in the club, although he is not yet willing to surrender overall control. It is difficult to imagine, however, just who might be likely to want to buy any of Goldberg's shares if they are not ensured a major say in the running of the club, especially as those shares are technically worthless until the club

emerges from administration. A London-based company, Tramp Oil, are supposed to have increased their investment in the club over recent months but it is understood that the firm have simply lent the club money to cover sums still to be received from the sales of players such as Dean Gordon and Paul Warhurst.

That cash is repayable, while income at Selhurst Park, with season ticket and TV revenue having been swallowed up at the start of the season, is not thought to be nearly sufficient - without substantial transfer revenue - to cover wage costs.

Goldberg's own finances have, meanwhile, become stretched over the past year following a massive downturn in the share price of his computer recruitment business.

Buchler Phillips, who have previously rescued Tottenham, Millwall and Barnet, may indeed be able to turn around the financial situation at Selhurst Park as well. Whether Goldberg remains in charge, or even involved, seems increasingly unlikely.

Although when Noades left the club last year there was a consensus among fans that his departure was a good thing, many might now have had a change of heart. Noades said yesterday that Palace supporters had already started contacting him to ask him return to the club.

Wimbledon to battle on 'for Kinnear'

WIMBLEDON HAVE pledged to continue their European push after Joe Kinnear's heart attack scare.

Kinnear, the Dons' manager, was in a stable and comfortable condition yesterday after he was rushed to hospital with chest pains shortly before Wednesday's 2-1 Premiership win at Sheffield Wednesday.

Wimbledon were stunned by the scare but players and staff called for business as usual.

The managing director, Sam Hammam, stayed in Sheffield after the game and Kinnear's wife, Bonnie, headed north, while the first-team coaches, David Kemp and Mick Harford, took over team affairs.

Kinnear, 52, has been chatting with staff on the cardiac ward of the Northern General.

A hospital spokesman said yesterday: "Joe is still under observation and he will be with us certainly for the next 24 hours. We've been monitoring him all the time he's been in here and will continue to do that."

He could not say when Kinnear would be fit to return to Wimbledon. "The main thing is for him to get back to health," he said.

Kemp and Harford took over team duties at Hillsborough and they have the task of preparing the Dons for Saturday's game against Leicester in the Premiership, at Selhurst Park.

By MATT BARLOW

Kemp said: "Obviously it all came as a bit of a shock but I was very pleased with the way the lads responded against Sheffield Wednesday. Footballers tend to be a very resilient breed and they all performed very professionally."

Efan Ekondu and Marcus Gayle scored as the Dons gave their manager a lift with three points.

The players have had a day off and we'll try and continue as normally as possible under the circumstances. We've just got to get on with it," Kemp said.

The defender Kenny Cunningham wished his manager a speedy recovery on behalf of the players. He hoped to see Kinnear back on the training ground as soon as possible but said his health was of paramount importance.

Kinnear had been taken ill after the team arrived at Hillsborough. The Wimbledon boss had given his preliminary match talk at the hotel and announced the team. It was as the players were coming into the changing room, about an hour before kick-off, that their manager became unwell.

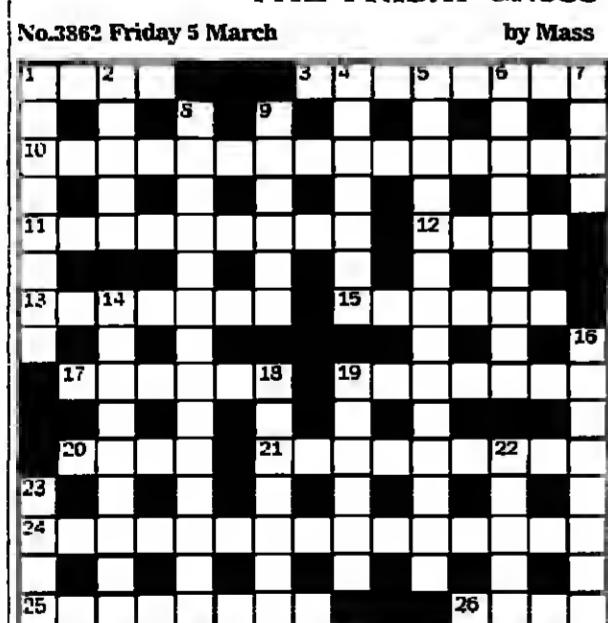
Cunningham said: "It was obvious the gaffer was suffering some kind of discomfort. Initial suggestions were that it was indigestion. There was no panic about the place."



Kris King (left) of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Sheldon Souray of the New Jersey Devils come to blows during an NHL match in Toronto

Reuters

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Music article presented by a paper (4)
3 Rusty at acting - and grabbing American Oscars? (6)
10 That's the second coincidence! (15)
11 Good book, undoubtedly, about split in state (9)
12 Moral lapse by king in decline (4)
13 Wine's from a constituent (7)
15 Heartless gaoler gets the bird (6)
17 After refreshments the Spanish do some napping (6)
19 Vessel (steamer, note) in pieces (4-3)
20 Venture has a Grecian character (4)

21 Predator typically fluttering over cairn (9)
24 Failure to understand Simonen, perhaps? I translated (15)
25 Floral plots, so right around the house (8)
26 Political group suggested by hawk in speech (4)

DOWN
1 Having joined
Opposition one deserts, surprisingly (8)
2 Number's up, with German about - a hopeless case (5)
4 Sea god's accessory I'd found in river (7)
These aren't gross sins? Possibly (14)
6 The makings of a row? (9)

Botham in Sri Lankan puzzle

CRICKET

By DEREK PRINGLE

terday morning. "I was approached nine months ago, but I've heard nothing since," he said. "I've certainly not signed any contract," a fact later confirmed by Botham's lawyer, Nimesh Desai. Speaking on Radio 5 Live, Desai said that "Ian was as confused as everyone else." Earlier in the day, the same radio station had Suma-

thipala claiming that Botham was all set to start.

Politics tends to play a big part in sport overseas, and it now appears that Sumathipala's claim to having secured Botham's services was little more than a wheeze to secure his re-election as president of the Sri Lanka Cricket Board.

If such a fabrication sounds

drastic it is, because the country's president, Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga, acting on allegations that Sumathipala has

made it look more like a joke.

In any case Botham, a com-

mentator with Sky, is a busy man. With another length of

Britain's charity walk for

Leukemia Research sched-

uled for the autumn, any coach-

ing would have been

intermittent at best.

Ironically, it is not the first time Botham's name has been linked with Sri Lanka. Four years ago he was offered the coaching job, a post he declined. Undeterred, Sri Lanka's response was to go on and win the last World Cup in trail-blazing style. Their defence of that trophy begins against England at Lord's on 14 May.

McMillan blow for Kiwis

By BRIAN MCKENNA

revealed. The hand is in plaster and the injury is expected to prevent him from playing for the next three to four weeks, the team physiotherapist, Mark Harrison, said yesterday.

McMillan was struck by Jacques Kallis in the penultimate over before the first Test ended in a tame draw in Auckland on Wednesday. The hard-hitting right-hander, who has a batting average of just below 50 after 11 Tests, did not think the injury was serious until yesterday morning when the pain had not receded.

"He had it X-rayed this morning and a fracture of the head of the fifth metacarpal was

revealed. The hand is in plaster and the injury is expected to prevent him from playing for the next three to four weeks, the team physiotherapist, Mark Harrison, said yesterday.

New Zealand might be able to replace McMillan with their captain Stephen Fleming who has not played for a month, but has recovered sufficiently from

groin surgery to be provision-

ally named in the Canterbury side to face Otago in a four-day game starting today.

If Fleming decides himself fit after playing, McMillan's injury might not be crucial. If he does not, the home side's batting will be very thin.

South Africa play a three-day game against a New Zealand A team in Lincoln beginning tomorrow as preparation for the second Test which starts at Lancaster Park next Thursday.

Pat Symcox, the veteran South African off-spinner, yesterday announced his retirement from the international arena, despite being named in his country's provisional 19-strong World Cup squad. Symcox has decided his poor form in the recent one-day series in New Zealand means it is time to withdraw his name before the final 15 are announced.

Symcox will be 39 by the time the tournament takes place and he feels he can no longer compete at the highest level.

"Home advantage will play a big part and it will help us. I think we've only been beaten in one-day series once in about

five years at home, but there are other countries that are going to do well here."

"South Africa are going to be the team to beat. Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan will be there or thereabouts, and we'll be in that pack as one of the favourites."

Gough returned from Australia with his reputation enhanced and he isn't upset at the way England fell flat at the end.

"We did well in Australia until the last six games, and they were all close. We made mistakes in them but we didn't get really beaten, if you know what I mean. We lost due to silly little mistakes," Gough added.

England able to win World Cup - Gough

DARREN GOUGH has backed England for World Cup glory on home turf this summer.

The tournament gets under way in May, and England's premier strike bowler believes his country can win the event for the first time, despite the disappointing end to their limited-overs campaign in Australia.

Gough sees home advantage as the key to success. "I don't think England are underdogs. We're one of the top four teams in the world and we believe we can win," he said.

"Home advantage will play a big part and it will help us. I think we've only been beaten in one-day series once in about

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Tonight, Trevor McDonald will be miked and



powdered to read News at Ten for the final time.



The news has yet to sink in. How will we cope?



(Read Tennyson, suggests Trevor, helpfully)

At the start of the Woody Allen film *Broadway Danny Rose*, a bunch of old-timers sit round a table in New York's Carnegie Deli, swapping their favourite stories about the legendary theatrical agent Danny Rose.

Behind the scenes at *News at Ten* these past few weeks, "Brandy" Reggie Bosanquet has inspired similar outpourings of nostalgia. Reggie, smirking at the item about the firemen who rescued a cat from a tree and then backed their engine over it. Reggie's toupee. Reggie missing vital instructions from the gallery. Reggie getting pissed.

Actually, my own favourite *News at Ten* story has nothing to do with the late, great Reginald Bosanquet, newscaster from 1967 to 1979, but with the rather less colourful John Suchet. Twenty years ago, Suchet was dispatched to Iran to report on the American hostage crisis. Unhelpfully, Ayatollah Khomeini had banned foreign journalists from entering the country, so Suchet had a fake passport and a batch of business cards made up, describing him as a dealer in Persian carpets. His resourcefulness paid off. He got to Tehran, stayed for a month reporting the story, and returned to London, where he left "Id that the Ayatollah had, some weeks before, ordered the execution of all Persian carpet dealers for profiteering at the expense of the state."

And now the ayatollahs who run ITV have ordered the execution of *News at Ten*. Tonight, after 32 years, it bongs its last. From next Monday, Trevor McDonald is taking his bongs to the *News at 6.30*, which will make his final "And Finally..." at around 10.27 tonight almost unbearably poignant. Well, quite poignant, anyway.

Rather like the Iranians in 1979, ITV has issued a ban on outside journalists. The press will not be allowed to sit in on the valentines *News at Ten*, and there's probably no point trying to get in.

posing as a carpet dealer. But on Tuesday night I was given a warm welcome at the grand ITN offices on Gray's Inn Road in central London, home of *Channel 4 News* and *5 News* on Channel 5, as well as all the bulletins for ITV. This, when you think about it, is bizarre. As I have noted before, for the same news organisation to produce the highbrow *Channel 4 News* and its lowbrow counterpart *Channel 5* is tantamount to the same Mrs Gascoigne giving birth to both Bamber and Paul.

Anyway, at 8.08pm I was collected from the impressive ITN foyer by Trevor McDonald himself, who ushered me into his office and, slightly surreally, began reading to me from a book of Philip Larkin's collected poems. "It is these sunless afternoons I find/ Install my elbow like a bore," he said. I don't think he meant me.

McDonald is something of a poetry fiend. When we discussed the fuss generated by the controversial decision to chop *News at Ten*, he quoted Tennyson. "Faction seldom rises head,"

Peculiar or not, ITV is shedding a powerful brand name. "Morse comes close, but I think you'll find that *News at Ten* has the biggest share of ABC1 viewers of any ITV programme," a former ITN hand told me. "Privately, a lot of people at ITN are still pretty upset about it going, but they will never say so publicly. They are all strictly on-message."

An on-message Trevor McDonald put it slightly differently. "We wouldn't want anyone else to appropriate our pain," he said. "We are the ones who've worked here for years. But we now have a series of new challenges. And ITV has invested enormously in the new current affairs programme, *Tonight*, which will be placed confidently in the middle of the schedules."

He was being characteristically bashful. The high-profile Thursday night programme is actually to be called *Tonight With Trevor McDonald*, representing the latest phase in his transition from mildly-admired newscaster to venerated TV superstar.

My theory is that the chief catalyst in this

having make-up applied. At 9.52 he was handed a piece of paper which read "Tottenham 3, Southampton 0". He was delighted. "I think I'll sing that," he said. McDonald is a Spurs fan. "Three-nil to the Tott-en-ham," he sang, tunefully. A technical bodge in the control room looked slightly nervous.

At 9.59, McDonald spoke calmly to the autocue operator. "Could you put capital Bs in beef-on-the-bone," he said. "And a comma after bone, please, would you mind awfully?" The "would you mind awfully?" reminded me of something an ITN insider once said to me, that McDonald, the lad from Trinidad, has basically reinvented himself as an upper-middle class English gentleman, fond of champagne and jolly big cigars. "I think Trevor thinks he's white," she said.

In many ways, this is grossly, almost slanderously unfair. Covering stories in apartheid-riven South Africa, for instance, he was frequently assumed to be the driver rather than the reporter, and recalled standing alongside a group of Afrikaners he was about to interview while they discussed which restaurant they could take him to. "I did used to go back to my hotel room with a bottle of wine and burst into tears at the obscenity of that regime," he said.

But in a sense it is true for McDonald has worked hard to avoid being professionally black. He encountered racism only once at ITN, years ago when someone accused him of being the organisation's token Afro-Caribbean. "It is true I was very worried that I would be relegated to black stories," he told me. "I said I would not do Brixton stories, and I almost begged to be sent to Ulster." In 1973 he was reporting on a riot in a Catholic area of Belfast when a woman, her face contorted with hatred, snarled at him: "You bloody English, why don't you go back where you belong?"

Until now, we have all known exactly where Trevor McDonald belongs. At the stroke of 10 on Tuesday night, the bongs sounded. "In Uganda today..." he began, concluding 26 minutes later with an "And finally..." about Lenny Henry receiving his OBE at Buckingham Palace. Disappointingly, there was no mention of Trevor McDonald. I think *News at Ten* missed a trick there. But after tonight, it no longer matters.

GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World,
a new, crisp, dry, rounded white.

INSIDE

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POP

The rural reality

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's challenge to the farmer's case is overdue ("One man's dog of an argument", 1 March). Farmers constantly tell us that we should all be devastated by the consequences if the rug was pulled from under the present rural regime. But why should we be?

Current farming practices have destroyed much of the landscape attraction and wildlife value of the countryside. Meanwhile farmers resist the idea that the taxpayers and consumers who fund them should enjoy the right to walk upon their holdings.

If farm subsidies were withdrawn and inefficient farmers departed the worst that could happen is that some farmland would revert to wilderness. Farmers tell us this would lead to an invasion "scrub" which we should find intolerable. Why?

"Scrub" is part of the indigenous plant life of our country. Grassland, shrubs and bushes and the woodland into which they develop provide homes and breeding grounds for wild creatures. Other countries go to great lengths to ensure that large areas are dedicated solely to nature. The shortage of wilderness in Britain is arguably a serious problem.

In fact, however, not much land abandoned by agriculture would be likely to lie derelict. As land prices fell uses other than farming would become feasible. Nature conservation organisations would be able to buy far more land. Local authorities would be able to create more extensive country parks.

All of this would be likely to make the countryside far more attractive, useful to the citizenry and biologically diverse.

MARION SHOARD

Dorking, Surrey

Sir: The argument over farming subsidies has become divorced from reality, submerged in a futile debate about whether the countryside would be preserved or not if farmers ceased to get their cheques from the EU.

"Subsidies amounted to £18,300 for every Welsh farm last year, equivalent to 98 per cent of their net income," Andreas Whittam Smith writes. Quite, and that means that without the subsidy there would be almost no Welsh farms at all. Indeed, even with that subsidy upland Welsh hill farmers are forecast to earn a princely £48 in the coming year - greedy bastards.

The argument about subsidies has nothing to do with the preservation of the countryside. It is a hard-nosed argument about the economic survival of tens of thousands of people, village schools, the villages themselves, our market towns and our public services.

In Wales we know well what the death of great industries following the withdrawal of public subsidy means. We know and agree that the mechanisms of support for farming must change to sustain the environment. Farmers hate having to depend on subsidies for their living. But don't let anyone be fooled by the beguiling mirage of cheaper food if subsidies go. Farmers have received about 40 per cent less for their produce in the market in the last two years, but food is no cheaper in the shops.

JAMES GIBSON WATT

Huy-on-Wye, Herefordshire

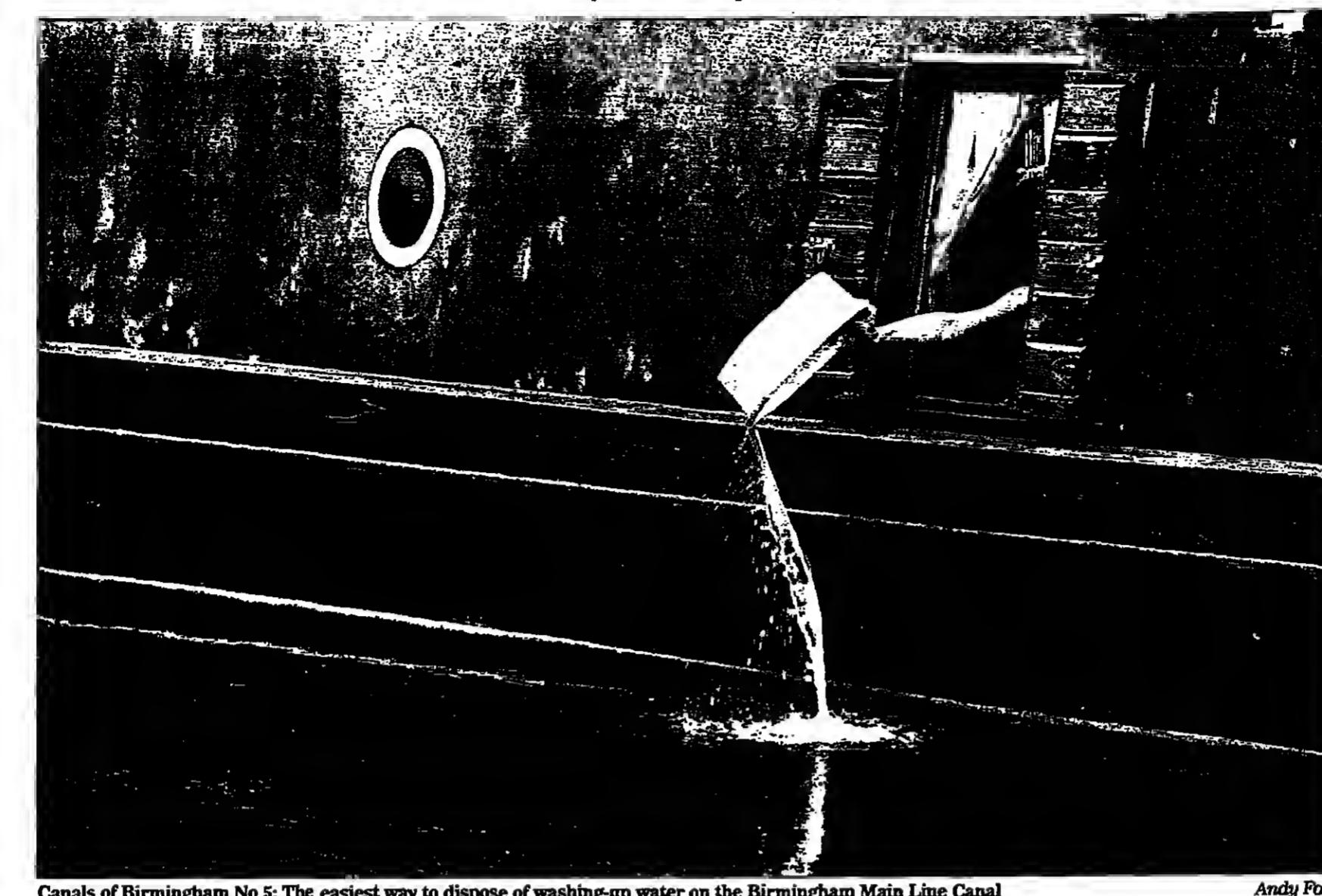
Racism or bigotry

Sir: In the wake of the Stephen Lawrence report, it needs to be pointed out that the real problem in our society is not racism, but bigotry against any group, be they black, Asian, Oriental, Gypsy, new age travellers, Irish, Catholic, Protestant, from the council estate, with long hair or cropped hair.

It doesn't seem to matter how many cultures or sub-cultures we have, we always seem to have a reason to hate.

I have had experience of the bigotry of some police officers because I rode a motorcycle (this resulted in severe beatings requiring hospital treatment while still in custody).

I have also experienced it



Canals of Birmingham No 5: The easiest way to dispose of washing-up water on the Birmingham Main Line Canal

Andy Fitz

because I chose to live in a bus. I've also seen it from firemen, ambulance drivers, vicars, nurses, friends and even myself.

Seemingly intelligent, compassionate, open-minded people can turn in an instant when faced with their particular pet hate. It is something we all need to take responsibility for. If we start calling it by another name we risk allowing it to be someone else's problem.

ROBERT G BREW

Worthing, Sussex

expounded the cause for so many years. I am denied the fundamental right that I thought was her cause.

One of us has lost the plot. If it's me I wish someone could explain where I've gone wrong.

WORTHING, SUSSEX

ROBERT G BREW

Worthing, Sussex

EU pitfall for Blair

Sir: The case for a referendum on the euro before the next election is even more compelling than your leader (1 March) indicates, as otherwise the election itself will become the referendum.

There are not many other issues of significance dividing the parties and this is one on which the Conservatives have a clear position and which is popular with the public.

At the next election this disappointing government will no longer be able to count on the support of traditional Labour voters like myself and many floating voters will return to their default mode of voting Tory. Thus, without a clear lead in favour of

membership of EMU and an early referendum to settle the issue, Tony Blair will become yet another prime minister to fall over the indecisive and ambivalent attitudes of the British to the European Union.

W H WHITE

South Creak, Norfolk

Sir: C Crofton-Sleigh seems to have superior knowledge to the rest of us (letter, 3 March). If people vote "no" to EMU in any referendum, it would apparently be because Mr Murdoch has wickedly seduced them.

Your correspondent then makes the glib statement that the UK's foreign policy is determined by the US. Not last time I looked it wasn't.

The EU is currently set on a

common foreign and security

policy. If one really wants to see the

UK's foreign policy disappear then

that is the way to do it. And voting

for EMU would be voting for

national suicide. And I have a brain

to think with independently of Mr

Murdoch.

PETER GARDNER

Oxford

Sir: It appears that Lord Owen, in creating the New Europe Movement, is trying to split the anti-European vote at the European elections in June ("Pro-Europe group aims to halt EMU", 2 March).

The genuine anti-European Union vote consists of the UK Independence Party and former members of the Referendum Party who have joined us to fight against the corrupt regime of the EU.

However, there are people who

claim to be against the EU and

these come mainly from the

Conservative Party, whose MEPs

sit in Brussels as part of the pro-

federalist Group of the European

People's Party. It is the latter

group which Lord Owen will help

with his new movement.

However, in the long run, it is

the pro-federalists like Tony Blair,

Paddy Ashdown and Alex

Salmond who will benefit - in

other words the undemocratic

European Union.

J W SMITH

UK Independence Party

Ayr

Strathclyde

Sir: I read with some sadness of David Owen's new New Europe venture to oppose the euro.

My regret was not triggered by Owen's admirable attempt to complete the full set of political parties he has split and weakened, as the Conservatives now look ripe for the peculiar Owen magic.

However, Dennis Healey's involvement in this sad adventure is a shame, and I feel that Healey's earlier assessment of Owen - here was a uniquely lucky man, the good fairy gave him charm, good looks and intelligence - unfortunately the bad fairy made him a complete shit - continues to hold true.

MALCOLM ACE

Winchester

No role for God

Sir: The "atheism" discussed in Paul Valley's interview with Karen Armstrong (Review, 26 February) has nothing to do with the atheism of most atheists. It just isn't true that "most of us have ceased to believe in Him - and yet we remain very fixed in our notions Who He is in whom we no longer believe" because most of us have never believed in the first place.

Most of us have no more interest in a God who is "within us" than one who is outside us, or in God as an "experience like music or art" than as a person, or in an "Eastern" than a "Western" view of the divine.

Atheism itself has no necessary relationship - whether positive or negative - with "spirituality" or "the sacred" whatever they may mean. It is not a dogmatic denial of the existence of superhuman person(s) or supernatural power(s) above or below, outside or inside, before or beyond life, the universe and everything, but

simply a pragmatic presumption that there isn't anyone or anything of the kind about whom or which it is worth bothering. Then serious discussion can begin.

NICOLAS WALTER

London W13

Transplant scare

Sir: I am dismayed by the extent to which Roger Blassberg (letter, 2 March) misunderstands the concept of brain stem death and procedures of organ donation. The United Kingdom has extremely exacting criteria for the diagnosis of brain stem death, before which organ donation and procurement may not occur.

Whilst Mr Blassberg is right to say that some organs are in a state of activity and the patient has a blood pressure, brain stem death implies the death of the brain as a whole, without which we are not sentient beings. The criteria by which we arrive at a diagnosis of brain stem death are applied strictly. There is no possibility of a "potentially sentient" person being considered for brain stem testing let alone for organ donation.

I carry out such brain stem testing frequently. It is evident, when despite "life support" the patient has absent thermal control and will rapidly cool, absent breathing and no responses to carefully performed tests of brain reflexes, that independent living could not occur.

I am greatly in favour of increasing the numbers of available organs for transplantation but not at the expense of alienation of people who may become donors. I agree that the concepts of brain stem death are sometimes difficult, frequently for doctors themselves. The time is right to redress the misunderstandings with further education. Confidence so easily undermined by a failure to grasp the facts, can then be improved in our organ donation and transplantation programme.

M T E HEAFIELD

Consultant Neurologist

Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Edgbaston, Birmingham

Sound truth

Just when you thought it was safe to ignore the slogan

Very Unusual Jobs Indeed
No 56: A Man Who Thinks Up
Film Slogans

WHEN YOUR Best Friend Becomes Your Worst Enemy".
"X Marks The Victim"
"When Love Is Not Enough"
"Would You Buy Secondhand Carnage From This Man?"
"A Man, A Woman - And Her Mother?"

These are just a few of the slogans dreamt up by Joe Kraven to adorn film posters. You may not recognise them. This is partly because we hardly ever read the slogans on film posters. It is also partly because these particular ones have never been used. Joe Kraven makes up many more film slogans than ever get used. In fact, he made these up while waiting to be

interviewed just five minutes ago. "I eat, sleep and drink these damn things," says Kraven. "I wake up in the middle of the night with them coming out of my ears. In the morning I find I have scribbled them all over my pad."

Why make up so many if they are not going to be used? "You don't know much about the film industry, do you?" laughs Kraven. "Nor do the people in the film industry. They know nothing. They don't know what you want or what anyone else wants. They just want something a bit like the last great thing. So when I'm asked for a slogan, I don't just take one along, because I know they'll ask me to rewrite it, however good it is. I take a dozen. Then they have to choose one. And then they ask me to rewrite it."

So why are they on film posters at all, these little slogans? "Well, occasionally it's to please the man who made the film. Remember *Blazing Saddles*? Of course you do. Remember the slogan? Of course you don't. It was 'Never Give A Saga An Even Break'. If that's not Mel Brooks's


MILES
KINGTON
'Never Give A Saga An Even Break. If that's not Mel Brooks's private gag, I'll eat my hat!'

And what purpose do they serve? "Absolutely none!" chortles Kraven. "They are totally useless. I mean, if you bring out a romantic comedy, and I give it a slogan like 'Old Enough To Know Better, Young Enough To Be Bad', nobody is going to see the film on the strength of that, are they? Well, I wouldn't. I might go on the basis of a review, or word of mouth, or the stars, but not the slogan. 'Hm, I say to myself, a film about someone who is old enough to know better but gets into trouble anyway... Must see it!' How likely is that on a scale of one to 10?"

So why are they on film posters at all, these little slogans? "Well, occasionally it's to please the man who made the film. Remember *Blazing Saddles*? Of course you do. Remember the slogan? Of course you don't. It was 'Never Give A Saga An Even Break'. If that's not Mel Brooks's

little private gag, I'll eat my hat. But mostly, I suspect, it's because the film-makers are never happy with the title, so they give it a kind of subtitle as a compensation. Actually, sometimes the slogan would have made a better title. Do you remember the slogan for *Alien*? 'In Space No-one Can Hear You Scream'. Great slogan - great title, way better than *Alien*. Even though it's nonsensical."

Nonsensical? How come?

"Well, the reason nobody bears you scream in space is there's no air. But by the same token, you can't scream either..."

"Of course, in the old days films never had slogans, and nobody cared. They made *Some Like It Hot* into one of the funniest movies ever, and nobody ever put on the posters 'Three Women On A Train - And

Two Of Them Are Men!'. But by the time you come to *Four Weddings And A Funeral*, you find someone adding the slogan 'Five Reasons To Stay Single', and you wonder: is it worth it? The other day I saw the video of the French film *Les Visiteurs*, about the medieval guys who time-trip to the present, and the slogan was 'They Weren't Born Yesterday'. And you think: who on earth dreamt that up?"

Do slogans ever survive?

"Survive? I'll tell you something. I had a slogan made into a film once! Sure, I'm not kidding. There was a film about a couple who kept falling in and out of love, and I came up with the slogan, 'She Wanted to Have His Child - But His Child Couldn't Stand Her!', which didn't work at all because the guy didn't actually have a child. But the film guys said, 'Hey, good idea! Man and woman fall in love on the rebound, but his son can't stand the dame!'. And they made the film!"

And you got the money?

"No," says Joe Kraven affably. "I never thought to copyright my slogans. You'd think I'd know better..."

What are you working on now?

"I'll give you the slogan and see if you can spot the story: 'Two men, one island, no women'..."

Some gay extravaganza?

"Nah, *Robinson Crusoe*!"

And Joe Kraven roars with laughter. Well, at least someone connected with Hollywood seems to enjoy his work.

- snores

anything with any cultural gravitas at all.

I couldn't help thinking that the artificial concreteness of middle-class part of the audience has something in common with the apparently trivial busking for it exhibited by the 'new' rock bands. They seem to be something which can only be wrapped in a thin veneer of artlessness on the ground. The audience, then, about the other night, was not so pampered as an artful presentation of the open, reverberating rock music of the 1960s. It was something, and not only by the third performance. The vicious deterioration of the first two productions represents nothing so interesting to a more relaxed audience, just as Brookside is not shocking to anyone but the purest.

I'm not advocating that artists cringe, wallowing in the slag when Covent Garden expects, but the typical opera goes in for less outrage at break-ups of pregnancies than a strong encouragement for whether or not to take the last part of *Paradise* on one of the last flights of *Clapham Junction*.

DEBORAH ORR
How can it be that the weed is winning despite everything we know about its pernicious effect?

SMOKING, GALLAHER announced breathlessly this week, became more popular in Britain last year for "the first time in living memory". Of course Gallaher has to announce everything breathlessly, because, after all, breathlessness is what the company sells.

The truth, however, is a little less worthy of a sharp intake (just as well, since ever fewer people in this country are capable of one), because actually smoking has increased in Britain merely for the first time since 1972. This kind of time-span is without the living memory of only the most enthusiastic of cannabis smokers, but nevertheless the statistic is sobering. How can it be that the weed is winning? How can it be, despite everything we now know about its pernicious effects on the human plumbing system, that smoking is cool?

One can bang on for ever about growing up, rebellion, laughing in the face of death and peer pressure. God knows plenty of people have. But maybe it's simpler than that. Maybe smoking is cool because it is powerful. And maybe it is powerful for the usual reasons. Because it is rich and famous.

I don't mean that it's rich and famous by association, just because glamorous people like Kate Moss can be seen puffing away as they check out of the rehab clinic (though undoubtedly all that stuff helps too). I mean because it's rich and famous in its own right.

Everyone knows that the tobacco companies make more than one kind of killing, that government cheques across the western world would be spectacularly depleted without the tax raised on tobacco sales, that the dismantling of the tobacco industry would mean the loss of thousands of jobs and millions in exports. But it's the dominance of cigarettes and smoking in our media which seems staggering to me. Again, this isn't just famous actors with fags in their hands, it's on the news pages, the features pages, and of course, like this piece, the comment pages. Cigarettes and cigars are always big news.

While Frank Dobson has promised that tobacco advertising will be outlawed by the year 2000, that's just the tip of the iceberg. Any supplier will tell you that an inch of re-

All publicity is good publicity for the weed, especially when in the hands of glamorous people like supermodel Kate Moss

editorial is worth 10 adverts in the same paper. And not a day goes by without an interesting news story starring cigarettes. Smoking is proof, if proof were needed, that all publicity is good publicity.

For while these endless fag stories rarely seem terribly upbeat, they usually represent excellent news for some interested party or other, as well as promoting visibility and ensuring that the profile of smoking never flags. Today's tobacco-related news is particularly rich. It caters to several of the many parties who are involved in the tobacco industry, and connects with a goodly amount of related issues.

First, and most prosaically, Irish customs yesterday seized six million cigarettes from bootleggers. This is good news for Gallaher, which constantly bleats on about how fag-smugglers are ruining their profit margins, and how tobacco taxes ought to be lowered to protect the interests of upstanding and legitimate vendors of coffee nials, such as themselves.

Because the bootlegging problem has become so big in Britain, Gallaher has filed decreased profits for

1998, despite the rise in smoking. Therefore it has undertaken aggressive expansion in Ireland, and can now look forward to selling six million more fags than it might otherwise have managed. Er, hurrah.

Second, and of primary interest to all those poor sods who wish to stop smoking but can't, is the news that anti-depressants are twice as effective as nicotine patches at helping people to kick the habit. This comes hot on the heels of Glaxo Wellcome's announcement that it is seeking permission from the EU to start selling Zyban in Europe. This drug, which was developed specifically to tackle the problems of nicotine withdrawal, has been available in the US since 1997 and is credited with getting more than one million Americans off the tabs.

There's also a vaccine under development by a British company, Canta! Pharmaceuticals, which blocks nicotine's effect on the brain, thus making smoking even more pointless. But it isn't only reluctant puffers who are cheered by this kind of story: it's also good news for potential smokers. Why avoid starting when so many people are willing to help you when you decide to stop?

Third, and of the utmost fascination for those who distrust New Labour as a fun but harmless hobby, is a statement from Health minister Tessa Jowell on tobacco sponsorship. Who cares what she's got to say about it? She's part of the Government which has managed to buck the decline in smoking for the first time in 26 years.

This was, of course, despite all best intentions, but nevertheless New Labour has found itself embroiled in not one but two smoking-related sleaze scandals during its short tenure. The first occurred early in New Labour's reign, when the party went out all guns blazing to ban the sponsorship of sport by tobacco companies - well, except in Formula One racing. While this was in no way related to Formula One supreme Bernie Ecclestone's gift of £1m to the Labour Party, they gave the money back anyway.

The second came at the end of last year, when New Labour admirably made plans to provide nicotine patches on the NHS as part of its £100m initiative to crack down on smoking. The trouble came when it emerged that the Swiss company, Novartis, one of the Labour Party's major sponsors, was lined up for the multi-million pound contract to supply the patches.

Poor old New Labour, stopped in its tracks by the power of fags. Why? Because they are rich and famous. That's why New Labour, and other well-intentioned governments, find it so hard to stub them out.

So what's to be done about it? It's tempting to say, absolutely nothing. Around 120,000 people die of lung cancer in this country every year, and libertarians are constantly pointing out that that's their affair.

Those concerned with the com-

mon weal will then cry that all this disease costs the NHS a fortune, but since diverting all the tax raised on tobacco sales to the NHS will more than compensate for that, this isn't such a shocking abuse of the health service as it may seem.

But there are good reasons why the fight against tobacco should remain a stubbornly social democratic, primarily that if we can't work out how to turn people off from cigarettes, we're not going to stamp out other similar and more serious drug abuses either. (The latter also shows that making

cigarettes illegal isn't a solution either. Then there really will be a major threat to the fabric of society.)

Health warnings on cigarette packets have worked well in the past, although the dedicated smokers can always ask his friendly newsagent for a pack which tells you that "Smoking while pregnant can burn your baby". That's not much of a turn-off if you're not pregnant, and none of the others are either, if you can keep them out of your sightline while having a puff.

What about stepping up the health-warning campaign and printing "I'm a self-destructive fool" down the side of every cigarette? Or just riding it out until riches and fame go out of fashion?

Me, I've been smoking for nearly 20 years now, and not a day has gone by when I haven't considered what a good idea it would be to stop. But now it looks like that may not be the case. I'm going to pin my hopes on Zyban.

But what I really need is a drug that will stop me from believing, in some burned-out corner of my addled brain, that cigarettes are my friends and they'd never do anything that would harm me.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PHIL REDMOND



The 'Brookside' creator replies to Beryl Bainbridge's dismissive remarks about scouse accents

BERYL BAINBRIDGE seems to have upset a great number of people in Liverpool. I can sympathise with her current position as I have, on occasions, suffered a similar fate but at least I share a common accent and am proud to do so, like, but it is this that appears to be causing many scousers to give Beryl down the banks.

But before anyone gets too carried away please bear in mind that, by her own admission, Beryl herself was snatched away from the centre of the universe to be educated on the periphery. She could, therefore, by scouse definition, be not one of God's chosen, but no less than a woollyback. So for her to worry about how people speak in *Brookside*, is a bit like sheep worrying about why they can't understand the bulls.

Still, the real issue to be teased out of all this is that attached to any attempts to eradicate our individuality. I am a great supporter of anything that raises literacy. I have often said that literacy is the second most important thing after sex. Through sex we procreate. Through literacy we convey our ideas. Neither requires elocution lessons.

But I am a great opponent of anything that attempts to homogenise our national culture, which should be a collective mass of individual effort. Regionalism provides a rich tapestry of differing dialects. We all cherish our rights to individualism while at the same time we enjoy belonging to our tribes, whether based on sport, religion, politics, age, nation or region. To most people the way they speak is a symbol of regional pride.

It is no coincidence that television's most popular programmes - the soaps - trade on regional identity and accents. As Beryl may have discovered, you challenge that at your peril.

Smoking is still so cool



DEBORAH ORR
How can it be that the weed is winning despite everything we know about its pernicious effect?



Alpha

An overdose of speed

FRIDAY BOOK

RITALIN NATION: RAPID-FIRE CULTURE AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS
BY RICHARD DEGRANDPRE, WW NORTON, £19.95



Richard DeGrandpre's title refers to more than the mass prescription of Ritalin, though. It expresses the idea that Americans, as a whole, are pursuing a Ritalin way of life. They live frenetic, fragmented and stressful lives; yet when their children show early signs of frenetic and fragmented consciousness, this is presumed to be a biological problem which requires a pharmaceutical solution.

DeGrandpre makes a persuasive case that Ritalin was actually a solution looking for a problem, which was de-

signed after the drug became available. The vagueness of the definition of Ritalin, though, it expresses the idea that Americans, as a whole, are pursuing a Ritalin way of life. They live frenetic, fragmented and stressful lives; yet when their children show early signs of frenetic and fragmented consciousness, this is presumed to be a biological problem which requires a pharmaceutical solution.

DeGrandpre's analysis of the Ritalin Nation is, to a large extent, reactive. The pendulum has swung towards the presumption that behavioural disorders are largely genetic in origin; in response, DeGrandpre shies away from evolutionary accounts of the mind, misguidedly implying that these are inconsistent with uniquely modern abilities such as high-speed driving. But if our minds can cope with driving at speed, why should we worry about their coping with other fast-paced aspects of modern life?

The reason, according to DeGrandpre, is that sensory stimulation is addictive. We get used to stimuli and they lose their effect; they must therefore be constantly amplified and multiplied.

This is a process fundamental to the contemporary world, and it is a real shame that DeGrandpre has chosen to interpret it in terms of addiction, a concept which is as flawed and badly theorised as the idea of prescribing a pill for every behavioural ill. It is not just drugs that are the problem, but the archaic conceptual frameworks that surround them. Any form of repetitive pleasure-

ISN'T IT TIME LABELLING WAS MOOIFIED TOO?

Why are some genetically modified foods labelled and some not?



Reading the label on food won't necessarily tell you if the ingredients have been genetically modified. So how do you know what you're eating?

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WHICH?



FRIDAY POEM

UNDERSTANDING THE ECHO
BY S W RHYDDERCH

Understanding the echo is the hardest part
of being young, its faint notes
pure and ready in an empty hall.

I'm anaesthetising the sky
and trying to listen to the voice
of the stars and decipher the trembling
of chandeliers and the colour blue.

Last time I came alive I brushed
the seaweed from my eyes,
peeled my sticky scales
and heard the dirn boom beckoning.
But the sea is its own grave.

S W Rhydderch's first collection, 'Stranded on Ithaca', is published at £19.95 by Redbeck Press, 24 Aireville Road, Frizinghall, Bradford BD9 4HH

The author's book 'As We Know It: Coming to Terms with an Evolved Mind' will be published by Granta in July

Professor David Daube

DRIVEN FROM Germany in 1933, David Daube was one of that group of Jewish scholars who introduced new standards of scholarship to the universities of Britain. In an active scholarly career spanning more than six decades, he mastered three distinct fields: he began in Biblical and Talmudic law, and Roman law, but his work on the Old Testament and Rabbinic sources led him more and more to the study of the Jewish background to New Testament texts and doctrines. As a victim of anti-Semitism, he saw this as his way of contributing to a greater understanding between Judaism and Christianity.

Daube's interest in Judaism was far from purely academic: he was involved in many Jewish organisations and, until late in life, he strictly observed the Sabbath and the dietary laws; moreover, resistance to oppression is a recurring theme in his writings. Because his work is spread over so many different areas and he wrote no comprehensive treatise in any of them, it is impossible for any one person to survey Daube's contribution as a whole, far less to judge its likely enduring impact. What can be said, however, is that in each of his chosen fields his work was almost always original and often brilliant.

Born in 1909 in the Germany of Wilhelm II, Daube came from an orthodox Jewish background, his mother being Selma Ascher from Nördlingen and his father Jakob Daube, a wine merchant in Freiburg. Despite the First World War and its aftermath, David and his brother Benjamin, appear to have grown up in fairly comfortable circumstances in Freiburg.

He attended the renowned Berthold-gymnasium there, with short spells in a Swiss private school for orthodox Jews and in Paris. He began his university studies in Freiburg, and came to the attention of Otto Lenel, the founder of the modern study of Roman law and himself of Jewish stock. Although Lenel was then about 80 and had retired some years before, he continued to work and singled out Daube, whom he treated as a personal pupil. Daube liked to recall how he would walk from the family home in Goethestrasse through the leafy streets of residential Freiburg to Lenel's house in Holbeinstrasse, where the two would discuss questions of Roman law. These discussions proved one of the decisive influences in Daube's academic life.

While maintaining his links with Freiburg, Daube studied for his doctorate in Göttingen, where he was taught by Johannes Hempel and the young Wolfgang Kunkel with whom he formed a lifelong friend-

ship. His thesis was on a topic of Old Testament law and earned him his doctorate "mit Auszeichnung" in 1932. When, half a century later, he tried to obtain a copy of the entry in the university records, he was told that the page had been torn out during the Nazi period. The coming to power of Hitler was the turning point in Daube's life. Even before then, he had been alive to the threat which Hitler posed: on one occasion he had gone with a girlfriend to hear him speak and had been struck by the power of his oratory.

In 1933 Lenel lost no time in advising Daube to leave Germany. He gave him a letter of introduction to Professor H.F. Jolowicz in London. Jolowicz in turn sent Daube on to Cambridge, where W.W. Buckland was the Regius Professor of Civil Law. Although the two men were very different and, to begin with, had to converse in French, they got on well together and in later years Buckland went out of his way to quote Daube's views in respectful terms. By 1935 Daube had obtained a PhD from Cambridge for his work on the Roman statute dealing with damage to property. Part of that work was published, as his first

He would start with a single text, perhaps even an isolated word in a text, and go on to illuminate a whole area of his chosen subject

article in English, in the *Law Quarterly Review* in 1936.

He married in 1936 and, happily, before the Second World War he was able to return to Germany and arrange for his family to come to Britain. In due course Daube obtained British nationality, which he retained even after he went to live in America in later years. In 1938 he applied unsuccessfully for the professorship of Civil Law in Edinburgh, but the same year he was elected to a teaching fellowship at Caius College, Cambridge. Apart from a short spell of interment on the Isle of Man in 1940, Daube held that position until 1946, when he became a University Lecturer in Law. He wrote *Studies in Biblical Law* (1947) during this period.

After the war he re-established

contact with scholars in Germany. In 1951 he was appointed Professor of Jurisprudence at Aberdeen, but he did not stay there long, since he accepted the offer of the Regius Chair of Civil Law in Oxford when it suddenly fell vacant after the death of Jolowicz in 1954. None the less Daube always remained particularly grateful to Aberdeen for having given him his first chair.

When he took up his appointment and his All Souls fellowship in 1955, Daube was pre-eminent in Roman law studies in Britain. He now held the foremost chair. The Oxford of those days, where Roman law was still compulsory not only in Merton but in Schools, might seem to have been the ideal place for Daube to pursue his career among colleagues who shared his interests. For a while all did indeed go well. Daube was at the height of his powers, producing a stream of readable yet closely reasoned and convincing articles in which he often concealed his scholarship under a light, sometimes almost flippant, style. An anonymous article in the *Oxford Magazine*, on the origins of Humpty Dumpty as an engine used at the Siege of Gloucester, was widely acclaimed.

He soon became known as a brilliant and entertaining teacher who brought the law of ancient Rome to life; undergraduates who would otherwise have had no interest in Roman law long remembered his lectures. As in Aberdeen, he had a number of doctoral students in Biblical law and Roman law. Of all of his pupils he had an indelible influence. Within the university and beyond he was skillful in securing posts for his protégés.

But moves were afoot to reform the Oxford Law syllabus by introducing new subjects and eliminating the compulsory Roman law paper in schools. These incipient changes were paralleled by changes in Daube's own life. He was divorced in 1964. He moved into All Souls, where he lived and worked in overheated rooms. He seems to have become progressively disenchanted with Oxford and with what he regarded as restrictions on his freedom. By the mid-1960s he was spending more and more time in America, especially in California with Helen Simelser, whom he was eventually to marry in 1968. He had also bought a flat in Konstanz in southern Germany, where he would spend part of the Easter vacation as a visiting professor.

This unsettled period came to an end in 1970 when Boalt Hall, the Berkeley Law School, offered him positions as Director of the Robbins Hebraic and Roman Law Collections and as Professor-in-Residence. He accepted – and resigned his Oxford



Daube's vast store of knowledge underpinned all aspects of his work

chair, just as the changes in the Law syllabus came into effect.

Daube moved to San Francisco and began his new life in a tiny flat in a somewhat rundown area. The climate suited him and the breathing difficulties which had plagued him for many years largely disappeared. An ice-cream in the sun with Helen at Fisherman's Wharf was a pleasant way to relax and, for a long time at least, his relationship with her brought him happiness and new interests, especially in the world of psychoanalysis.

Daube seemed to revel in what he regarded as his new, laid-back life. Getting up early in the morning, he would greet the down-and-outs on his way through the empty streets to the bus station, where he bought a newspaper – he never watched

television or listened to the radio – and caught the bus for the short journey across the Bay Bridge to Berkeley. He would arrive at Boalt Hall well before breakfast, ready for the work of the day.

For many years – and indeed long after he officially retired in 1981 – he faithfully gave courses and lectures at the law library. Boalt Hall was indeed to remain the focus of his life for as long as he was able to read and to work. Members of the staff and other colleagues did much, directly, to support him and, later, to look after him when he had to move into a home.

The key to Daube's work was his

massive intellect and learning, in addition to the texts associated with his professional work, he seemed to have read and remembered the whole of classical German, French and English literature and more besides. This vast store of knowledge underpinned all aspects of his work, for central to that work was close study of texts and minute attention to language and to the nuances of language.

Typically, he would start with a single text, perhaps even an isolated word in a text, and, by revealing a hitherto unsuspected meaning or dimension, he would go on to illuminate a whole area of his chosen subject. For these purposes context was often crucial. In Old Testament studies stress had been placed on the importance of a text's *Sitz im*

Leben (setting in life) and Daube applied that technique, attractively if not always convincingly, to Roman law in *Forms of Roman Legislation* (1956).

Our knowledge of Roman law comes, for the most part, from the digest which is made up of thousands of extracts from the works of ancient jurists. Lenel, whom Daube revered, had revolutionised its study by identifying the original context of many of these extracts. In the 1950s and 1960s Daube published a series of dazzling papers in which he carried on Lenel's work – only in private would be hint that he might well have improved on it. It can be no coincidence that the best and most substantial of these papers, and arguably his finest article on Roman law, was written in sober academic German and appeared in the *Sowjetische Zeitschrift*. It is his monument, to be set beside the master's.

Indeed, Daube remained a quintessentially German scholar. Even after living for decades in the English-speaking world, he had a strong German accent – some surmised that this could hardly be unintentional. In later years, he would seem outwardly to have adopted the relaxed Californian way of life, with long hair, an open-necked shirt and some linguistic usages to match. To the chagrin of some of his colleagues, he professed at least to favour many of the aims of the students in Berkeley and elsewhere in the late 1960s, though he was so skilful at arguing for any point of view that it was often difficult to be sure exactly how strongly he supported a particular cause.

In truth, of course, David Daube was completely different from those students: his life's work had been built on that particular meticulous, disciplined scholarship and *Wissenschaft* which he had acquired long before in Weimar Germany. He was thus the product of a system of education which has vanished for ever.

ALAN RODGER

David Daube, Roman law and Jewish scholar: born Freiburg, Germany 8 February 1909; Fellow, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge 1938-46; Lecturer in Law, Cambridge University 1946-51; Professor of Jurisprudence, Aberdeen University 1951-55; Regius Professor of Civil Law, Oxford University 1955-70; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1955-70 (Emeritus); FBA 1957; Director, Robbins Hebraic and Roman Law Collections and Professor-in-Residence, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley 1970-81 (Emeritus) Professor of Law; twice married (three sons); died Pleasant Hill, California 24 February 1999.

Anthea Askey



Anthea Askey and her father Arthur, 1954 Hulton Getty

PERT AND pretty, sweet and very petite, Anthea Askey was the delight of one of the country's all-time favourite funny men, Arthur Askey, who might very well have called himself "sweet and petite" if only in jest. The only child of Arthur and his beloved wife, May, both of whom might be described as pocket-sized, Anthea inherited her father's spirit of comedy and her mother's good looks. Domesticity and producing grandchildren for her parents deprived her of a fulsome career in television and a faithful viewers of a major star.

Anthea Shirley Askey was born in 1933 in the same Golders Green nursing home where her funny father was having his tonsils removed. "It was a sort of package deal," he was pleased to remember. A few weeks later Askey was to make his first BBC radio broadcast in *Saturday Night Music Hall*. He felt his daughter's birth brought him luck for within a few years he would become the star of radio's first regular comedy series, *Band Wagon*, which would lead him to a string of major comedy films over the next decade.

Anthea's education at a nearby convent was interrupted by the Second World War. The Askey family evacuated themselves to Worthing, then in 1940 to Lytham in Lancashire while Arthur starred at the Blackpool Opera House, then to Portmeirion in Wales, moving to Lake Windermere in 1941, a cottage in Little Milton in 1942, after which Anthea was put into a boarding school at Bletchley.

Finally in 1944 the Askeys bought a house in Sussex. Moving in at Christmas they discovered their gardener was augmenting his income by selling their prize vegetables to the local greengrocer.

By this time Anthea's permanent nickname for her dad was "Wave". As an infant in arms she thought it was his name. Every time Askey left the house, wherever it might be, her mother took the child's arm and said, "Wave!"

She made her first stage appearance in 1945 at the age of 12. She was attending boarding school on

the Isle of Wight at the time. The local repertory theatre at Ventnor needed a young girl for a small part in the *Emlyn Williams* play *Dear Evelyn*. Anthea was eager to take the job, as it meant no homework plus late nights for a fortnight. Dad was especially delighted when an on-stage door stuck. Anthea gave it a couple of pulls, then ad-libbed "I think I'll go through the French windows, it's quicker!" Like father like daughter.

In 1946 Askey received his first invitation (of nine) to take part in the *Royal Variety Performance*. After

the show he asked Anthea how she liked it. "Do you know daddy," she said, "they didn't give me a spoon with my ice-cream".

In 1948 the 15-year-old Anthea passed her radio audition and was cast as the lisping Violet Elizabeth Bott in the latest series of sit-coms based on Richmal Crompton's *Just William*. Naughty schoolboy William Brown was played by David Spenser, the former newsreader Bruce Belfrage played Mr Brown, while his wife was played by one other than Eild Trevor, wife and straight woman to comedian Claude Hulbert.

By 1948 Anthea Askey was a hardened "pro" and joined her father on stage in his play *The Kid from Stratford*. Then the Askeys upped and went to Australia, where they starred in *The Love Racket*. They intended to stay for three months but were such a hit they ended up spending a full year. When she finally returned home Anthea was cast in her first pantomime at Bolton.

In 1954 Arthur threw her a star-studded 21st birthday party at the Dorchester Hotel. The 180 guests included his old *Band Wagon* partner Dicke Murdoch, Norman Wisdom, Bobbie Hayes and his film-star daughter Sally Sally Ann, and the entire *Crazy Gang* not forgetting "Monsieur" Eddie Gray. Askey, knowing his daughter's heart, invited a surprise guest her secret love, the cinema heart-throb Herbert Lom.

The same year Anthea made her cinema debut, backing up father in his starring vehicle *The Love Match*. This John Baxter production based on Glenn Melvyn's successful play also featured Thora Hird as her mother, James Keeney, the handsome son of the popular "miserable" comedian Horace Keeney, and a guest star appearance by veteran comedian Rohr Wilton in his radio role of Mr Muddicombe Jr.

The following year she played her father's daughter once again in *Ramsbottom Rides Again*, a comic western about the timid grandson of a tough guy sheriff. In the cast were the pop star Frankie Vaughan, Shari Wallis and Sabrina, her father's husky discovery from his BBC television series.

Anthea Askey made her last film in 1959. This was father's final starring vehicle, *Mike Mine a Million*. He played a television make-up man while she did a guest star walk-on with her television co-star, Dicke Henderson. By this time she had become one of the new stars of London's latest television channel, the Independent Commercial Company, Associated Rediffusion. She began as ever in a production starring her father. This was a serialised version of *Love and Kisses*, shown in five episodes at the end of 1955 and not much more than a di-

PAT FOGARTY was an illustrator whose drawings and watercolours appeared regularly in newspapers, magazines, books, and in national advertising campaigns – in every size and context, from billboards to brochures to ginger-beer labels.

She was born in 1940, in Cape Province, South Africa, and brought up with her elder brother Denis and Leigh, her twin, in remote Namibia where her father farmed; her grandfather Nelson Wellesley Fogarty was the first Anglican Bishop of Damaraland. "Piffy" never lost her childhood nickname, her speech sprinkled with glottal Afrikaans, or her cinematic knowledge and delight in film-star glamour absorbed from the local hotel's Saturday film shows. After boarding school in Port Elizabeth, a three-day train ride away, she studied art at Port Elizabeth.

In 1967 came the show that would make her a full-blown star at last. Beginning as *The Dicke Henderson Show* and later retitled *The Dicke Henderson Half-hour*, the series ran for several years. Dicke, whose first contact with Askey was singing with his sisters, the Henderson Twins, in the stage version of *Band Wagon*, played husband to Anthea's wife. The scripts were Anglicised from an American sit-com starring Sid Caesar; and a number have been preserved by the National Film Archive. In the later programmes, Anthea's role was taken over by June Laverick.

In 1956 Anthea had married Bill Stewart, her father's stage manager in *Love Match*, and now fell pregnant. Unhappily their firstborn died when only three weeks old. Later she was able to present her father with three grandchildren, Jane, Andrew and William. Tragically Anthea Askey died just a week before she was due to marry Will Ryffe Jim, the pianist son of the Scottish comedian Will Ryffe.

DENIS GIFFORD

Anthea Shirley Askey, actress; born London 2 March 1933; married 1956 Bill Stewart (two sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Worthing, West Sussex 28 February 1999.

Technical College from 1959 to 1962. Squaring up to the prospect of living under apartheid, she chose freedom and left for Europe.

Next followed a peripatetic decade in France, England and the Greek island Skiatos; a hand-to-mouth living teaching and painting was gradually replaced by artwork commissions. In 1981 she settled in north London and consolidated her career as a self-employed illustrator (she also co-translated several books of cartoons by Claire Bretcher). Her clients included Penguin, The Daily Telegraph and Reader's

ANNE BOSTON

Patricia Marion Fogarty, illustrator; born Cradock, South Africa 15 November 1940; died London 17 February 1999.

Pat Fogarty



Fogarty refused to call herself an artist Martine Nebot

Digest, she also produced more than a hundred illustrations in a two-year project for Tesco.

Her skill at creating a likeness led to commissions such as Penguin's cover portraits of John Mortimer for *Clinging to the Wreckage* and *In Character*. Evocative restaurant interiors and still-lifes enhanced restaurant and food columns.

Her work was versatile, honest, based on research and photographs (she was a talented photographer), with friends cast as nurses, pensioners or romantic heroes. The style was clear, precise and confident. She never missed a deadline.

Her last set of monochrome illustrations for *The Costume Collector's Companion* 1990-1990 by Rosemary Hawthorne (1998, for Aurum Press), showed her precision of line at its finest, qualifying her for the title of artist that she denied herself.

For six years Pat Fogarty was a volunteer at Lesbian & Gay Switchboard. Two years ago, as new technology and computer-generated technology whittled away the livelihood of professional illustrators, she decided on a change of occupation. Rejecting the idea of a career in gambling (she was a serious follower of flat-racing form) she threw her energies into training in existential therapy and counselling, with a student posting as an HIV Test Counsellor at the Royal Free Hospital. Her teachers regarded her as gifted. But her course was interrupted by illness.

In small, Fogarty had charismatic presence and a combative streak. She made decisions quickly and stuck to them. A natural entertainer and mimic, she was perceptive about others, with an exceptional gift for friendship. Her close relationship with Jayne Parker, the avant-garde film maker, was creative and fulfilling. During her illness she rediscovered her closeness to her brother Leigh, who was with them both when she died at home.

ANNE BOSTON

Patricia Marion Fogarty, illustrator; born Cradock, South Africa 15 November 1940; died London 17 February 1999.

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DEATHS

King Opoku Ware II of Ashanti

The Asantehene at court in Kumasi, 1995
Jean-Marc Bouju / AP

KING OPOKU Ware II was the 15th King of the Ashanti, or Asantehene. The Asantehene has succeeded in wielding traditional power over the Ashanti people of Ghana, who number some 30 per cent of the population, while at the same time managing to coexist with President Jerry Rawlings' National Democratic Congress government.

This was achieved despite the fact that the Ashanti region has supported the largest opposition party, the New Patriotic Party, and its candidate in the last presidential election, John Kufuor. The role of traditional leaders is entrenched in Ghana's constitution, in return for ceding political power to the elected government. In order to carry out this delicate balancing act the apolitical king drew strongly on the tradition of the Asantehene.

The Ashanti kingdom was founded during the 18th century by Opeimso Osei Tutu who unified the Ashanti states through allegiance to the Golden Stool, or *Sita Agua Koyi*, which mystically symbolised the soul of Ashanti nationhood. Through bravery and skill the Ashanti dominion expanded from their central Ghanaian homeland, bringing them into conflict with the strongest colonial power of the time - Britain.

A series of wars culminated in 1873 with the capture of the Ashanti capital of Kumasi, which was looted. Some fine examples of regalia from that period are still on display at the British Museum and the Wallace Collection in London. A series of colonial administrators and further uprisings eventually led to a reconciliation between the parties, and the establishment of a British protectorate, which became part of the Gold Coast colony.

By this time the role of the Asantehene had been resurrected by King Prempeh, who was succeeded by his nephew, Prempeh II, in 1931 as the occupant of the Golden Stool. During his reign the Gold Coast colony was transformed into the independent nation of Ghana in 1957. The royal succession process of the Ashanti is a matriarchal one, which meant that when his uncle Prempeh II died in 1970, Opoku Ware II (as he became) was one of several potential successors to the Golden Stool. He was subsequently nominated by the Queenmother, or *Nana Asantehene*, and accepted by the Ashanti people.

The Asantehene was born Jacob Matthew Poku in Kumasi, central Ghana, in 1919 into the Ashanti royal family, and was educated at Anglican school before attending Adisadel College, Cape Coast. He worked as a building inspector and later with the Public Works department between 1937 and 1943 and then trained as a surveyor in Ghana, working on the Kumasi Traditional Council Hall and the Kwame Nkrumah University. He married his wife Victoria, also from Ashanti royalty, in 1945. In the 1950s he studied law in the United Kingdom and was called to the Bar in 1962. He later became

known by the Ashanti name Barima Kwaku Adusei.

On his return to Ghana, Adusei worked as a lawyer in Accra, before setting up a private law practice in Kumasi. Increasingly successful and respected in Ashanti politics, he was appointed to the National Liberation Council's executive board in 1968, as the Commissioner of Communications.

Adusei's life was changed instantly in March 1970, when shortly after he was appointed the ambassador designate to Italy, his uncle Prempeh II died. His distinguished legal career and record of public service, along with the support of his wife and family meant that he was officially enthroned in July 1970 as Asantehene, and given the added sobriquet of Otumfuo, or 'the greatest'. Reports speak of his belief at the time that the role of Asantehene was even more important to him than representing his country, in that proper guidance for the Ashanti would lead to progress for all Ghanaians.

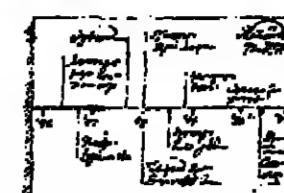
In his tenure as Asantehene Opoku Ware concentrated on local affairs and in implementing traditional tribal justice, rather than taking on a national political role in opposition to the government. This was evidenced by the support of the then President, Ignatius Acheampong, concerning disputes over the costs of the Asantehene's traditional palace in the 1970s. The Ashanti people, however, have remained active in Ghanaian national politics at all levels, particularly in opposition, and are viewed by some in government with trepidation, due to their disproportionate wealth and influence.

During the mourning period, the process to succeed Opoku Ware II has already begun, with several candidates vying for the position. In the 19th century, the funeral of the Asantehene would have meant five burial for his entourage. While that custom has been abandoned, the ritual spilling of blood on to the stool will still take place, and the funeral itself will exhibit the finest Ashanti traditions of cloth and jewellry making.

Opoku Ware was unique in that his wife, Victoria, ruled almost as an Ashanti First Lady until her death in 1995, following the celebrations for the Asantehene's Silver Jubilee. Their three children will not be considered as candidates, although his son, Prince Akwempeh-Hene, may be consulted. It remains to be seen if Opoku Ware's successor will follow his low-key example or attempt to formulate a more high-profile role for traditional leaders in Ghanaian politics.

JAMES WALKER

Jacob Matthew Poku (Barima Kwaku Adusei), barrister and traditional ruler; born Kumasi, Ghana 30 November 1919; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn 1962; enthroned 1970 as King Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, 15th Asantehene; married (one son, two daughters); died Kumasi 26 February 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES

ALISON WEIR

A private, serious royal wedding

DOWN THE centuries, the marriages of royalty have more often than not been solemnised away from the public view.

In the 17th century, during the time of the Stuarts, royal weddings once again became private affairs. Prince III and George IV met their brides only a day or so before their weddings. George III's marriage to Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz proved successful and produced 15 children, but George IV took one look at the rather malodorous Caroline of Brunswick and called for a glass of brandy. His bride recorded that he spent his wedding night lying drunk in the fireplace.

The first royal wedding to take place in public was the marriage of the Prince of Wales, to Catherine of Aragon, in 1501 at St Paul's Cathedral. The bride went in procession through London, to the cheering of vast crowds, and was then escorted to a platform built in front of the cathedral, where she and Prince Arthur took their vows. As was the custom before the Reformation, the bride swore to be "bonair and buxom in bed and at board", and the royal party and their guests proceeded into the church for the nuptial mass. This was followed by a splendid feast, after which the young couple were publicly bedded together in front of many witnesses.

Opoku Ware was unique in that his wife, Victoria, ruled almost as an Ashanti First Lady until her death in 1995, following the celebrations for the Asantehene's Silver Jubilee. Their three children will not be considered as candidates, although his son, Prince Akwempeh-Hene, may be consulted. It remains to be seen if Opoku Ware's successor will follow his low-key example or attempt to formulate a more high-profile role for traditional leaders in Ghanaian politics.

Henry VIII may have been married six times, but every one of those six ceremonies took place in private. His marriage to Anne Boleyn in 1533 was secretly solemnised before dawn in a turret room of

Whitehall Palace; not even the Archbishop of Canterbury was certain of the date.

In

the 17th century, during the time of the Stuarts, royal weddings once again became private affairs. Prince III and George IV met their brides only a day or so before their weddings. George III's marriage to Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz proved successful and produced 15 children, but George IV took one look at the rather malodorous Caroline of Brunswick and called for a glass of brandy. His bride recorded that he spent his wedding night lying drunk in the fireplace.

George V had been married privately in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, but three of his six children were the first of the modern generation of royals to have public weddings. The Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Duke of Kent all went in procession to Westminster Abbey, and their nuptials were the subject of intense public interest. It was the newly married Princess Royal who, in 1922, began the tradition of making an appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

The

development of the media in the 20th century has enabled the public to participate as never before in the celebrations of royal weddings. The first royal wedding to be televised was that of Princess Margaret in 1960. This was followed in rapid

succession by the wedding of the Duke of Kent. Royal wedding fever reached its height in 1981, with the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. Never had media and public interest in a royal wedding been so intense, and it has been estimated that a hundred million people world-wide watched the event on television.

There was a similar response when Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson. During the following year, however, adverse publicity attached itself to both these marriages and, when they both broke up in the early 1990s, public disillusionment set in. The happy endings promised by the fairy-tale weddings had been an illusion; when Prince Edward announced his engagement to Sophie Rhys-Jones, it was felt that the time for change had come. Wisely, the engaged couple have opted for a more muted ceremony. They have returned to the tradition established by their forebears in an age when marriage was taken more seriously.

It is encouraging that, in an era obsessed with the superficial, Edward and Sophie have indicated their wish to accord substance precedence over style, and are perhaps setting a new trend for royal weddings.

Alison Weir is the author of 'Elizabeth the Queen' (Pimlico, £2.99)

Damages reduced for contributory negligence

WHERE A lender, in an action for negligent overvaluation against a valuer, was found to be contributorily negligent, the reduction in his damages under section 1(1) of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945 should be made to the amount of his loss before the application of the principle in *South Australia Asset Management Corp v York Montague Ltd, United Bank of Kuwait plc v Prudential Property Services Ltd, Nykredit Mortgage Bank plc v Edward Erdman Group plc* (1996) 3 All ER 365 (SAAMCO).

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of the plaintiff lender against the decision of the Court of Appeal, which had reduced the award of damages made in its claim for professional negligence against the defendant valuers.

The plaintiff proposed to offer to a Mr Hussain a non-status loan of £1,050,000 by way of re-mortgage on his home, being 70 per cent of £1.5m which he claimed to be the value of the property. The plaintiff obtained two independent valuations of the property from the defendants, each of whom valued the property at £1.5m.

Mr Hussain defaulted on the repayments and the plaintiff obtained possession of the property. It subsequently exercised its power of sale, obtaining only £435,000. The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendants, alleging that they had negligently overvalued the property.

The judge found that the overvaluation had amounted to £500,000. He arrived at a figure of £611,748.51 as the plaintiff's basic loss. He then made

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

5 MARCH 1999

Platform Home Loans Ltd v Oyston Shipways Ltd and others

House of Lords (Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Cooke of Thorndon, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett) 18 February 1999

a finding of 20 per cent contributory negligence for the plaintiff's imprudence in making a non-status loan of 70 per cent of the value of the security, and awarded the plaintiff £489,388.81.

The defendants appealed, and the plaintiff cross-appealed. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that applying the SAAMCO principles, the amount which the plaintiffs could recover was only £500,000, being the difference between the amount of the valuation and the true value of the property. Having deducted 20 per cent for contributory negligence from that figure, the plaintiffs would be awarded £400,000. The plaintiffs appealed.

Nicholas Paton QC and Andrew Walker (Rising King) for the plaintiffs; Simon Berry QC (Williams Davies Metzler for the first defendants and Dibb Lupton Alsop, Birmingham) for the second defendants.

Lord Hobhouse said that the subject of the SAAMCO case was the question whether a lender could recover his loss in full from a negligent valuer where that loss might be attributable not only to the original negligence of the valuer but also to a subsequent fall in market values.

In applying the SAAMCO principle, the first step was to establish what was the lender's basic loss. The second step was to see whether that basic loss exceeded the amount of the overvaluation and, if it did, the lender's right of recovery was limited to the extent of the overvaluation.

The court was required by section 1(1) of the 1945 Act to form a view as to what it thought just and equitable having regard to the plaintiff's share in the responsibility for the damage and to reduce the plaintiff's recoverable damages accordingly. In the present case it would not be just and equitable that the plaintiff's recoverable damages should be reduced to £400,000 on account of the defendant's basic loss.

Just as Lord Hoffmann had, in SAAMCO, formulated a general principle which was easy to apply in all save exceptional cases, so also would the right answer on the application of section 1(1) be arrived at by applying the traditional percentage reduction to the lender's basic loss before making any further deduction on account of the SAAMCO principle.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

traditional, adj.

trade hardly traverses the ages - especially as stores keep changing their names (what happened to Wavy Line?). In this case, "usual" is the right word. Traditional has not only acquired a chunky hue but is used so randomly as to be meaningless: successful books prompt imitations "in the tradition of".

DINNERS

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, the First Sea Lord, was the principal host at a dinner held yesterday evening on board HMS Victory, Portsmouth. Captain Sir Donald Gosling Royal Naval Reserve was the guest of honour. Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, the Second Sea Lord, presided.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Professor Robert Burgess, Dr David Clark and Professor Ledwith spoke on "Post-graduate Education for UK plc".

Holborn Law Society
Mr David Morgan, President, accompanied by Mrs David Morgan, presided at the Holborn Law Society annual dinner held yesterday evening at the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Bridget Crowley, "Cats and Dogs: Pintoricchio, Penelope and her Suitors", 1pm.

British Museum: Joe Cribb, "Magic Coins from Java: The Raffles collection", 11.30am.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.33pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 9999; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2283; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-380 1622; Reform Synagogue: 0171-274 1499; Chabad Lubavitch: 0171-273 4751; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2572; New London Synagogue: 0151-332 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Northern General Hospital, the Devonshire Quarter, Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

WAYMARK: John and Beryl, of Welwyn Garden City, are pleased to announce their Golden Wedding anniversary today.

DEATHS

CORNWALL-JONES: Marie Evelyn Jones (nee Smith), aged 88, widow of Guy Mark, Paul and Dan. After a full life died peacefully on Wednesday 3 March. There will be a private cremation to be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Rothfield Greys, Oxtordshire, on a date to be announced.

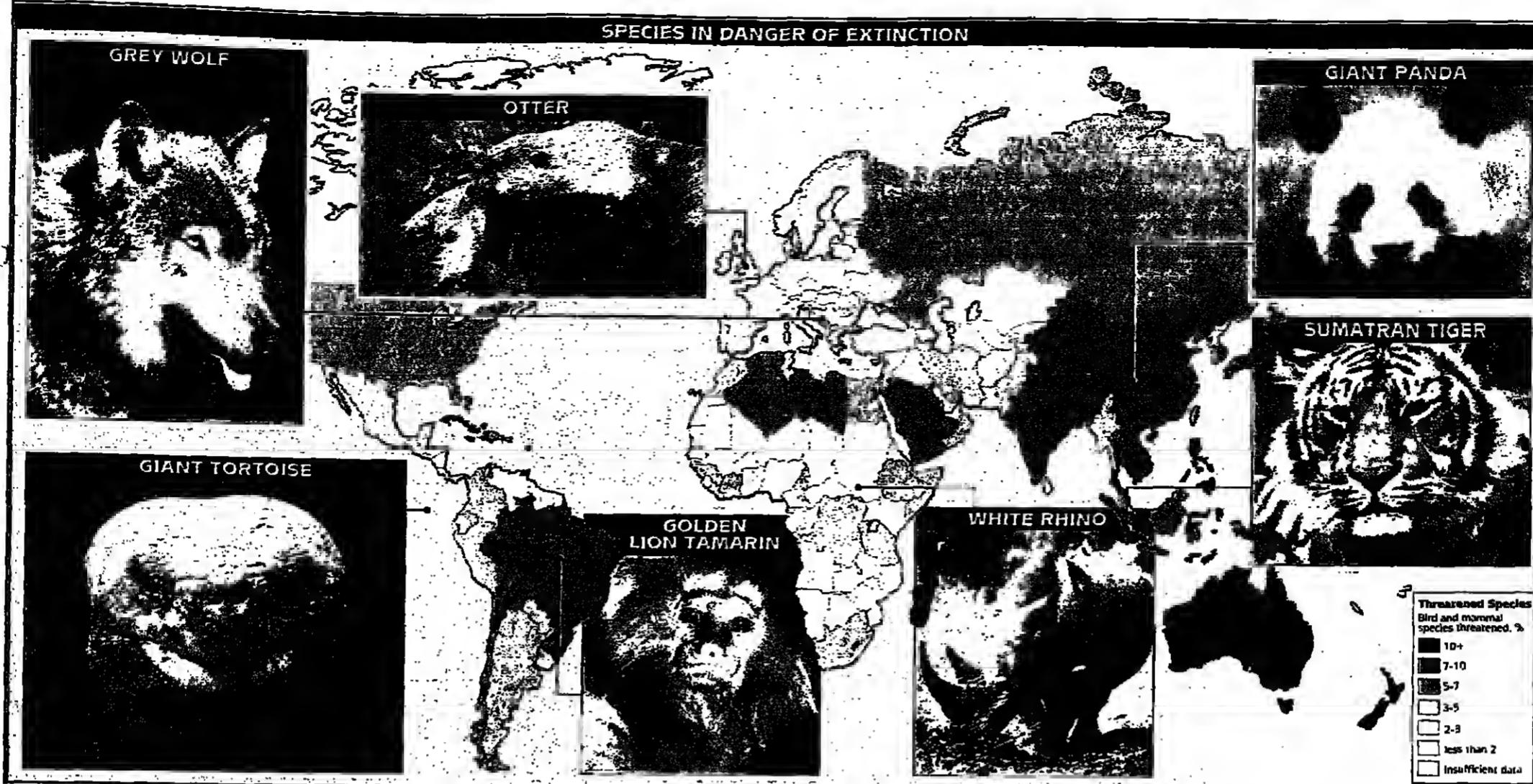
LONG: Rosalind of Woldingham, Surrey, our wonderful mother, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend, died on 2 March after a courageous struggle against cancer, aged 57. Her funeral will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Epsom Road, Caterham-on-Hill, Surrey, at 3pm on Thursday 11 March. Please send donations, if desired, in place of flowers, payable to one of her favourite charities: Action Aid, Amnesty International or the Cardinal Hume Centre, care of Alex Jones Funeral Directors, 1 East Grinstead Road, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6EP (telephone 01342 832534).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Gerhardus Mercator (Gerhard Kremer), cartographer, 1512; Sir Austen Henry Layard, archaeologist, 1817; Sir Charles Wyville Thomson, zoologist, 1830; Howard Pyle, artist, illustrator and writer, 1853; Sir Henry Hughes Wilson, field marshal, 1864; Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Norris, novelist, 1870; Rosa Luxemburg, Spartacist (socialist) agitator, 1871; William Henry, first Baron Beveridge, on the Beveridge Report on social insurance, 1873; Herbert Farjeon, critic and playwright, 1887; Sir Rex Carey Harris, actor, 1908; Anthony Hedges, composer, 1928; The Rev Bruno Heim, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 1938; Mr Robin Herbert, chairman, Leopold Joseph Holdings, 1956; Mr Richard Hickox, conductor, 1958; Mr Alan Hunt, High Commissioner to Singapore, 1958; Mrs Ann Longley, former Head Mistress, Roedean, 1971; Lord Macfarlane of Bearsted, chairman, Macfarlane Group, 1973; Miss Elisabeth March, actress, 1988; Sir Derek Mitchell, former senior civil servant, 1977; Miss Elaine Paige, actress and singer, 1977; Sir Jack Rumold, former President, Industrial Tribunals, 1979; Mr Ronald Sandler, chief executive, Lloyd's of London, 1979; Mr Dean Stockwell, actor, 1983; Air Marshal Sir Thomas Stonor, defence consultant, 1983; Mr Barry Tuckwell, conductor and horn player, 1983; Mr Des Wilson, Director of Corporate and Public Affairs, BAA plc, 1984.

On this day: the foundation stone of New College, Oxford, 1512; Sir Austen Henry



Going before their time

There may be more species alive now than at any time in the history of life on Earth, but they are dying off at an alarming rate. And there's one species in particular that's to blame - *Homo sapiens*. By Steve Connor

WE are on the cusp of a unique period in the history of life on Earth when species are becoming extinct at a rate something like 10,000 times greater than they would be under normal circumstances. "This represents the sixth great wave of extinction, fully compatible with the big five mass extinctions of the geological past, but different in that it results from the activities of a single other species rather than from external environmental changes," according to Sir Robert May, the government's chief scientific adviser.

The destructive species Professor May had in mind when he addressed the 50th anniversary meeting of The World Conservation Union last November in Fontainebleau was, of course, *Homo sapiens*. Man's activities, notably his ruthless destruction of natural habitats and ever-growing consumption of the Earth's limited resources, will put thousands of species at risk of extinction over the next century. The problem scientists face is trying to assess the likely scale of the problem.

Two scientists who have studied the destruction of the planet's biodiversity — a measure of the wealth of animals and plants alive today — are in any doubt that we are facing another mass extinction. The difficulty, however, is proving it. There is no dispute over the scale of habitat destruction over the past few centuries, but how do we know that this has resulted in the extinction of species?

The recorded extinctions since 1600 of all types of animals, from molluscs to mammals, amount to no more than about 1,000

species, which is a tiny fraction of the many millions of species of animals and plants alive today. Scientists also point out that the forest cover of the eastern United States now amounts to just 1 or 2 per cent of its original extent, yet only three forest birds went extinct during that period.

Georgina Mace, an expert on species extinction at the Institute of Zoology in London, says that such an interpretation underplays the true nature of the problem. "Many species go extinct unnoticed; some have never been described and some have been described but are so poorly known that we would not notice their passing," she says. It is a well-known phenomenon in biology — the more a group of animals or plants is studied, the greater the threat of extinction is realised.

Another reason why the problem can be easily underestimated is that the rules governing what is extinct are quite strict. The animal or plant in question must not have been observed for more than 50 years. Many species may be extinct already but not yet fulfilled the criteria of a recognised extinction. As Dr Mace points out, it is always harder to prove something does not exist than to show it does exist.

A central difficulty in assessing the scale of current extinction rates is that biologists have only formally described and named a fraction of the planet's lifeforms. Professor May and John Lawton, director of the Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College London, say that about 1.5 million species of animals and plants have names, but the total number of species could range from five million to 15 million.

Furry and feathered animals are well described, but the same cannot be said for insects, worms and other "lower" lifeforms.

Ed Mathew, a campaigner with the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature says ignorance is the biggest problem. "To monitor the situation we need good information about the world's species. This information does not exist. Species are being destroyed faster than they are being saved," he says.

Scientists estimate that the present biodiversity on Earth is so rich that it means there are more species alive now than at

any other single period in the history of life. And yet, the millions of species living today constitute less than about 4 per cent of the total number of species that have existed during the past 600 million years following the "explosion" of the diversity of life during the Cambrian period. Extinction is an inevitable result of natural selection, which actually brings about new species in the continuing process of evolution.

Scientists have attempted to estimate the speed of the "background" extinction rate which must be taking place all the time, without the influence of human activity. They looked at what has happened in the past by studying extinction rates estimated from the fossil record, extending back over many hundreds of millions of years. This suggests that a typical lifetime of a species — from when it originated as a distinct interbreeding entity, to its final demise and removal — is a few million years. Some species, such as insects which last on average about five to 10 million years, have a longer lifetime than others, notably mammals which typically survive as a single species for about two million years.

When May and Lawton looked at extinction rates today, based on known extinctions of a species within a single group, say birds or mammals, they found that typical species lifetime was significantly shorter — about 10,000 years. "This may sound a long time, but the estimate for birds and mammals is 100 to 1,000 times shorter than the lifetime of species in the fossil record," says Dr Mace.

Another method of estimating extinction looks at the destruction of natural habitats.

The WWF says in its Living Planet Report published last year that the world's forest cover has decreased by 13 per cent between 1960 and 1990, which is equivalent to losing an area half the size of the USA each year. Scientists such as Brian Groombridge of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge are attempting to work out how this habitat loss is impacting on biodiversity.

A rule of thumb — and it is rough because different habitats carry different densities of animals and plants — is that a 90 per cent decrease in the area of natural vegetation will result in the loss of between 30 and 55 per cent of species. This means, for example, that if tropical forests are being lost at a rate of between 0.8 per cent and 2 per cent a year, the corresponding loss of species would amount to an annual loss of between 0.2 and 0.5 per cent of the total. "If there are five million species, then 10,000 to 25,000 species are committed to extinction each year as a result of habitat loss," says Dr Mace.

These figures tie in quite well with those

based on the known loss of individual species within well studied groups.

They also match the rapid loss seen during the five mass extinctions of evolutionary history.

Dr Mace reaffirms the view of colleagues such as May, Lawton and Groombridge: "We do seem to be on the brink of a large-scale extinction spasm, but a major difference is that now almost all extinctions are due directly or indirectly to the impact of human activities. People now

so dominate the Earth that there are very few species completely unaffected by our existence."

John Lawton puts it more starkly:

"Whatever view one takes, the impending sixth mass extinction will be unique in the history of the planet."

Food for thought

It's too easy to blame the scientist, says Lewis Wolpert

IN THE current discussion — or should that be hysteria — over genetically modified foods, reference is repeatedly made to BSE. A common claim is that it is a clear case of scientists being either dishonest, secretive or at best incompetent. Indeed, Stephen Byers, the Minister in charge of the Department of Trade and Industry, went so far as to say that it was important to restore public confidence in scientists because of their behaviour over BSE.

I thought it a bizarre claim without foundation, but to find out what lessons might in fact be learned from BSE in relation to "Frankenstein foods", I talked to Professor Sir John Pattison, the doctor and scientist who chaired the key committee on the dangers of BSE to our health.

What I asked him was the basis for the claim that scientists had behaved badly and what evidence was there that they actually had? He explained that when the new variant CJD (Creutzfeld Jacob Disease) problem was first presented to the Government, there were only about 10 people in the world who had thought carefully about it or even knew anything about it. Were it not for scientists, no one would have known there were any dangers at all. He knew of no evidence of any scientist saying it was safe for cattle to be fed food containing the remains of cattle.

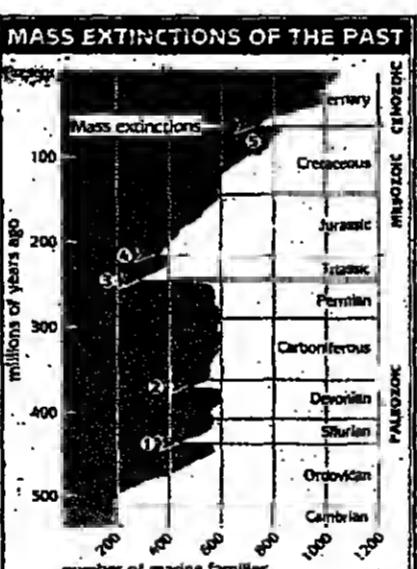
He also emphasised an important feature BSE and GM foods may have in common — the long incubation period for any disease consequences to become apparent. "By the time you realise you are in trouble, you are in deep trouble."

Good science requires peer review which, in its broadest sense, is the free exchange of ideas, data and materials. This might be more difficult for those doing research in a Government establishment. The quality of any science which has important implications on public health and thereby Government policy is of the greatest importance.

The BSE problem comes, in part, from the fact that one cannot have an intensive dairy industry without feeding the cattle protein concentrate and the use of an animal source for this protein is used throughout the world and can be traced back for more than 100 years. Pattison surmised that the problem was that those scientists who were knowledgeable about the health risks were not the same as those scientists who were thinking about animal nutrition and that the connection was not made that would signal a possible problem with a long established practice.

On the *Today* programme, Stephen Dorrell, the Health minister of the time, when asked if he would let his daughter eat beef said it was not for him but for the scientists to decide. I was outraged as it seemed that it was exactly that sort of issue that politicians were elected to make decisions about, making assessment of the risks having taken advice from those with special technical knowledge.

"Safe", interpreted as "zero risk", Pattison regards as an unhelpful word, for nothing is without risk. In the end, the issue is one of trust — in the public mind politicians rate low, below scientists who are themselves below doctors, and at the top are consumer associations. For the consumer, making a satisfactory choice requires trust or knowledge. But that depends on everyone sticking to the rules of quality control and full disclosure of what is in the food; the government must ensure that these rules are rigorously followed. As with the licensing of medicines, each new GM food must be considered individually. The main lesson to be learned is that openness is all.



Marine fossils show there have been five mass extinctions over the past 600 million years. The mass extinction which is starting today will not be seen on fossil records for several more million years.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

CLASSIFIED

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Legal Notices

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE REVEREY OF TRADES ACT 1967

The former St James Mission Room, Marthens, The Strand, London, WC2R 4EP.

WHEREAS: (1) The Trustees of St James Mission Room formerly held the land upon which the above premises stand under a lease dated 26th November 1952 and made between George Malden Albion (11) and William Sherriff and Thomas Ashton the 2nd of Whitechapel, 12. The deed was made under the provisions of the Places of Worship Act 1860 for the purpose of a place of worship administered by the trustees for the benefit of the poor and from time to time to be entitled to the services of the Vicar of Whitechapel.

(2) The land is now held by virtue of section 5 of the Revereys of Trades Act 1967 because subject to a rent of £10 per year for the use of the premises for the purpose of a place of worship administered by the trustees for the benefit of the poor and from time to time to be entitled to the services of the Vicar of Whitechapel.

(3) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

The Trustees have sold the property to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under section 2(4) of the Revereys of Trades Act 1967 for an Order establishing a Charity.

WHEREAS: (1) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

(2) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

(3) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

WHEREAS: (1) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

(2) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

(3) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

WHEREAS: (1) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto in fee simple.

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And P is for Polymath

Born 250 years ago, Goethe is one of the greatest figures of European civilization: poet, playwright, scientist, prime minister, author of the first bestseller and founder of modern German literature. Kevin Jackson presents an A to Z of his life and works

L

A is for Auden WH Auden not only admired the man he called "Mr G", he felt a deep affection for him. It saddened Auden to think that the British, though we are happy enough to agree that Goethe should join Dante and Shakespeare in the triad of Major League European writers ("Dauny, Gouty and Shopkeeper", Joyce called the old firm in *Finnegans Wake*), seldom bother to read him. Auden tried hard to pique our interest, and the three sprightly essays he wrote on Goethe provide an ideal short introduction: they can be found in his collection *Forewords and Afterwords*.

T

B is for Biology Goethe was as much a scientist as an artist, and carried out research in botany, geology, physics, psychology and meteorology. One historian has even credited him with having provided the groundwork for modern weather forecasting. His most substantial discovery, however, was in the field of biology. In March 1784, Goethe refuted conventional wisdom by showing that the inter-maxillary bone – a part of the jaw – existed in man as well as the other mammals. Despite this anatomical coup, Goethe the scientist is best remembered for his rather more eccentric work in optics, which is why...

I

C is for Colour Partly an attack on Newton (or what he thought Newton was saying), Goethe's *Theory of Colours* is a fascinating, if fanciful, work which cost him many years of effort. "I do not regret it at all," he told a friend a few years before his death, "though I have expended half a life upon it. Perhaps I might have written half a dozen tragedies more; that is all, and people enough will come after me to do that."

C

D is for 'Dichtung und Wahrheit' Or Poetry and Truth, Goethe's detailed autobiographical account of his youth. Why so detailed? "The most important part of an individual's life is that of development... Afterwards begins the conflict with the world, and that is interesting only in its results." That, at least, is what he told the man who has been described as "Goethe's photocopier"...

P

E is for Eckermann As Boswell to Johnson, so Eckermann to Goethe. Nietzsche called Eckermann's *Conversations with Goethe* (1836) "the best German book there is".

P

F is for 'Faust' He began Part One in his early twenties; he put the finishing touches to Part Two some 60 years later; on 22 July 1831, may have died with it, a hit shortly before his death in 1832. In short, this vast play was his life's work. David Luke's prize-winning translation for Oxford World's Classics is the one to buy. If you've already enjoyed Luke, try the looser versions by Louis MacNeice, Howard Brenton and Randall Jarrell.

P

G is for German It is not true to say that Goethe invented the German language, but it's not altogether preposterous, either. In the careful words of the scholar TJ Reed: "He was the first to explore fully (which means that he virtually created) the expressive registers of modern German."

P

H is for 'Hermann und Dorothea' Not much read now, except by specialists, and noted in reference books mainly as an instance of that rare literary form, the verse novel, but in its own day (1796) a considerable success with the reading public. "Almost the only one of my larger poems that still satisfies me," was Goethe's verdict in old age.

P

I is for Italy On 2 September 1786, aged 37 and suffering from the onset of what we now call a mid-life crisis, Goethe adopted the pseudonym of "Herr Möller" and made a bolt for Italy. The two years he spent in and around Rome changed him utterly: he gorged his eyes on the art and architecture, he learned to draw and, it appears, he enjoyed his first adult love. Auden, contrasting portraits painted before and after the stay in Rome, asserted that the latter showed "a man who has known sexual satisfaction". The book which im-



Goethe takes to the ice: one historian even credited him with discovering weather forecasting

Hulton Getty

mortalised these experiences, the *Italian Journey (Italiensische Reise)*, was co-translated by Auden, who hoped that it was the text most likely to wean English readers from their assumption that Goethe is a tiresome old bore.

J is for Jægerspris The main setting of Goetz von Berlichingen. Goethe's earliest play written in 1773 when he was 24. Heavily influenced by Shakespeare, Goetz is a sprawling, episodic and often violent work set in the early years of the 16th century. John Arden wrote a free but powerful adaptation of the play in 1965, calling it *Ironbound*. A major revival is long overdue.

K is for Knowledge Who was the last great polymath? Leonardo? Pico della Mirandola? Well, if Goethe did not acquire competence in every human endeavour, it wasn't for want of trying. (Only astronomy failed to catch his interest.) And if anyone since the Renaissance has actually known "all there is to be known", that man was not Mr Toad, but Mr G.

L is for Lehrjahre That is, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*, Goethe's long novel about a young man's coming of age. Schlegel thought its publication an event as momentous as the French Revolution. Though this now seems a trifle excessive, the book has lasted surprisingly well, and fragments from it still crop up in the most unexpected places. Jean-Luc Godard

quoted it extensively in his film about a later generation of French revolutionaries, *La Chinoise*, and Wim Wenders took it as the basis for his road movie *Wrong Movement*.

M is for Music Beethoven (*Egmont* overture), MSchubert ("Wer nie sein Brot"), Schumann (*Scenes from Faust*), Liszt (*A Faust Symphony*), Gounod (*Faust*), Wolf ("Kannst du das Land"), Mahler (Symphony No 8)... outside Germany, Goethe is often better known for inspiring composers than as an artist in his own right. A music lover himself, he may have beaten Schelling to the famous perception that architecture is "frozen music", he might not have been too disgruntled at the fact.

N is for Nature "I have never observed Nature with a view to poetic production," he told Eckermann. Early Goethe has been compared to Wordsworth, albeit, one should probably add, a Wordsworth with degrees in geology, botany, meteorology, anatomy, physics.

O is for Orientalism At the age of 65, Goethe re-invented himself for the nth time by writing a group of poems, the *West-östlicher Diwan*, in imitation of the Persian lyricist Mohammed Shams-ud-din, otherwise known as Hafiz. Many of these are erotic: a few – the *Shenke* (Cupbearer) group – nonchalantly homoerotic. Calm yourself, gay scholars: there's not much else in his oeuvre to win Goethe a place in any homosexual pantheon.

P is for Poetry Goethe is, above all else, a poet

– TJ Reed. And, like all poets, stubbornly hard to translate. Here's one valiant attempt, by Longfellow, of one of his most famous poems:

Über allen Gipfeln
Ist Ruh.
In allen Wipfeln
Spreitet du
Kaum einen Hauch
Die Vögel ein schweigen
Im Wilde.
Warte nur, bald
Ruhest du auch.

O'er all the hill-tops
Is quiet now
In all the tree-tops
Hearest thou
Hardly a breath;
The birds are asleep
in the trees.
Wait, soon like these
Thou, too, shalt rest.

Q is for Quality Goethe's scientific writings place so much stress on the importance of qualitative rather than quantitative knowledge that people thought that he was an enemy of mathematics in all its forms. Not so, be replied: mathematics are "the most sublime and useful science", but only in their proper place. "It would be foolish for a man

not to believe in his mistress's love because she cannot prove it mathematically."

R is for Roman Elegies Or *Romische Elegien* (c1793-90), Goethe's first fully Classical work, written after his Italian journey, in emulation of the love poets Catulus, Propertius and Tibullus. It is blissfully sexy, full of lifted skirts, discarded corsets and creaking beds; Auden seems to have known what he was talking about.

S is for 'Sturm und Drang' Literally "Storm and Stress," the nickname of a group of wild young writers of the 1770s, of whom Goethe was the star.

T is for 'Torquato Tasso' A verse drama (publ. 1790) based on the Renaissance poet Torquato Tasso (1554-1595), about which it is conventional to remark that it says more about Goethe than Tasso, and considerably less conventional to remark that it is the first drama of "the Romantic dilemma between the demands of the aesthetic and of the practical life" (David Luke).

U is for 'Urphänomen' or "primal phenomenon" – in Goethe's philosophy, a kind of archetype or essential form which the intelligent eye may detect in its particular manifestations, such as the "primal plant" (*Urphänze*), a basic structure uniting all existing plants. The literary historians say that this idea burst upon him in Palermo. The keepers of the botanical gardens in Padua, where you can see the "Goethe Tree" to this day, say otherwise.

V is for Victorians "Minds like Goethe's are the common property of all nations," Carlyle insisted in the preface to his 1824 translation of *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*. Victorian intellectuals agreed: for the likes of George Eliot, G Lewes and Matthew Arnold, Goethe was one of the formative spirits of the modern world. Arnold wrote that "no persons (are) so thoroughly modern, as those who have felt Goethe's influence most deeply".

W is for Weimar This small German principality was Goethe's base for almost all his productive life, from 1775 when he accepted the invitation to become its Prime Minister, a provincial backwater which, thanks to him, became a cultural whirlpool.

X is for 'Kenian' The name of a collection of sardonic squibs written by Goethe and Schiller. Goethe was proud of them: "The good effects which the Kenian had upon the German literature of their time are beyond calculation."

Y is for 'Young Werther' or *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (1774), the short novel about a sensitive lad who affects a blue frock-coat and kills himself after an unhappy love affair. The precious bestseller made Goethe 25 famous throughout Europe – an early exemplar of the rock star; as an American critic recently wrote – and it remained the one book everyone who visited him in Weimar was bound to know. (Napoleon told Goethe that he had read it seven times.) Some historians say that the stories about its prompting a wave of copycat suicides are apocryphal, but it does seem to have boosted sales of blue frock-coats. Its enduring popularity made *Young Werther* something of a stone around the neck of its ageing author, and yet...

Z is for Zelter On 3 December 1822, at the age of 73, Goethe told his good friend Karl Friedrich Zelter that he felt quite capable of writing a second *Werther*, which would make people's hair stand on end. For all his hard-won serenity – to put it more crudely, his reputation as a tedious old wise man – Goethe plainly felt that his work was far from finished. In a sense, it remains unfinished. As Nietzsche wrote in *Human, All Too Human*: "one can claim that Goethe's effect has not yet been fully realised, and that his time is yet to come".

Goethe Weekend tomorrow and Sunday at the South Bank Centre, London, SE1 with concerts and readings. Tel: 0171 960 4242 or www.sbc.org.uk. Further information on other events throughout this year can be found on www.goethe.de/grilon/engpgs.htm

A ghost of a fine drama

IN JOHN CROWLEY'S spartan West End production of *Macbeth*, there is a baffling and characteristically perverse staging of the celebrated scene in which a supper party, thrown by the newly crowned Macbeth, is disrupted when the butchered Banquo's ghost makes two appearances to the bloody tyrant. In the version originated here, we see Banquo being brutally battered to death and then, in an eerie dissolve, the banquet table descends and covers his corpse.

So far, so clever (the's the couple's hidden secret). The trouble is that in the subsequent scene, his spectre never actually emerges. So when Rufus Sewell's terrified Macbeth remonstrates with what looks like an empty stool, flings wine over it, and fu-

riously stabs it, he seems to be going bonkers.

The perspective of the theatre audience is scarcely different from that of the embarrassed guests, whereas the drama of this brilliant episode depends purely upon the disparity between their view of the unfolding situation and ours. We know, chillingly, that it is not, or not only, in Macbeth's imagination.

If the ghost fails to materialise in the above scene, then so does any real sense of the horror and harrowing sadness of this tragedy in the production as a whole.

Rufus Sewell is a fine, sexy actor

and elsewhere has moistered many a gusset with his Byronic smoulderings. But, stockier and more bullet-

headed than of yore, he looks to be bodily out of his depth in this killer-role, which has defeated an illustrious list of leading thespians from Peter O'Toole to Derek Jacobi.

Deploying a tight, husky voice, he wrenches the rhythms of the verse this way and that, and is either too indolently slow and mannered or giddingly fast. Listening to his speeches is like trying to study the beauties of an Old Master drawing while it's being dangled in a tearing, capricious wind. Shakespeare's characterisa-

tion of Macbeth is a masterly study in moral disintegration, but its supreme genius lies in the way the hero continues to excite an appalled human sympathy. "I gin to be awary of the sun" is one of the greatest lines in the canon, its drained music that of a man who has been hollowed out by experience. Not here, though, with a Macbeth who kicks the walls like a petulant schoolboy.

Matters would be helped if one could begin to believe in the hero's marriage to Sally Dexter's pneumatic, raven-tressed and significantly older Lady Macbeth. Dexter, too, can be a formidable actress. But here the crudeness of the direction defeats her. The unravelling of the couple's relationship, with the murder of

Paul Taylor

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Sally Dexter and Rufus Sewell

Geraint Lewis

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IN SATURDAY'S DESIGN PAGES

How young designers are being inspired by Jackson Pollock's action paintings at the Tate
Your Money, page 12

MICHAEL CHURCH
Once, great music for castrati but the...
Then came the cou...

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW
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MUSIC

Jagger sings the blues

The Stones have always been a blues band at heart, so it was natural for Mick Jagger to record with a blues legend. He talks about working with the late Jimmy Rogers – and the current tour. By Pierre Perrone

I wasn't that aware of Jimmy Rogers until I had to see him in a club many years ago," admits Mick Jagger. "I'm asking him about his contribution to *Blues Blues Blues*, the album Rogers, born in Ruleville, Mississippi in 1924, nearly completed before his death in December 1997. "I never saw him play with Muddy Waters or anything," says Jagger. "But I connected [that] he was one of the guys who backed Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter and Sonny Boy Williamson. Jimmy was on a lot of Chess sessions and he made one album I had with that tune 'Sloppy Drunk' on it. I used to do that one."

I suggest the legendary Rogers might have featured on the Muddy Waters album sleeve which attracted Mick's attention back in 1960, soon after he met Keith Richards on a Dartford-bound train. After all, the pair named their band after a Waters song...

Jagger laughs politely. "Anyway, I did a show four or five years ago in London for the launch of National Music Day. Jimmy Rogers was on the bill and, after I saw him around in Chicago, I certainly don't recall meeting him when we recorded at Chess studios in the Sixties."

Jagger claims Rogers was the first musician to play electric blues, influencing everyone from Freddie King to the British blues boom of the 60s. He was also a prolific songwriter who penned "Sweet Home Chicago", "That's All Right" and "Ludella". When news came that John and Elaine Koenig and Atlantic Records' supremo Ahmet Ertegun were in Los Angeles putting together recordings to celebrate Jimmy Rogers' unique contribution to the blues, Jagger and Richards jumped at the chance to get involved. The Glimmer Twins joined an illustrious guest-list which eventually included Jeff Healey, Taj Mahal, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, Stephen Stills and Eric Clapton. Rogers' devotee who recorded several Rogers compositions on his *From The Cradle* album. But forget Carlos Santana hijacking John Lee Hooker's "The Healer", forget U2 and BB King's duet on "When Love Comes To Town", forget Ron Wood jamming with Bo Diddley. *Blues Blues Blues* is the real deal.

"I just did whatever they wanted me to do really. I was there to sing," says Jagger about his involvement. "Jimmy was pretty game but he was really ill. We were doing the vocals in the booth and I didn't know he was pretty sick. No one said anything. You make allowances for people his age and he was pretty good considering how ill he was. It was fun trading the verses around. It was all done live. They maybe touched up a couple of his things afterwards but they didn't touch mine 'cause I went back and never returned."

"They were all done in one afternoon. The trickiest was the Sonny Boy Williamson one. 'Don't Start Me to Deep Dish.'

Somehow, this backs up my theory that the Stones are at their best when they are closest to their blues

roots or the furthest away from them in mad "Continental Drift" mode (to pick another recent example from the *Steel Wheels* album). Jagger concurs. "Yeah, I like that. To go in the most extreme direction possible is to me the most fun. I like to hear the Stones playing really live blues all the way to someone doing a crazy remix. I find that the most amusing. We're a band that can do all those things. Of course, we don't do them all equally well, but the fact that we can function and be convincing in all these genres is great."

"There was a funny piece I saw the other week in an American mag, trying to pick out our lesser-known songs and they were saying stuff like: 'Which blues band plays an Elizabethan ballad?' Not that Jagger is serenading Lady Jane on the current US tour, which sees the Stones playing arenas rather than stadiums and charging premium ticket prices. "We're doing 'Route 66', 'Moonlight Mile' from *Sicky Fingers*; stuff we've never done before."

In an infamous BBC radio interview, support act Sheryl Crow said that touring with the Stones was not like *Cocksucker Blues* anymore. Jagger guffaws at the mention of Robert Frank's shelfed 1972 documentary, more sex and drugs than rock'n'roll, which the band allegedly rejected because they'd "played up to the cameras". "Things have certainly changed a lot. Because we're playing slightly smaller places and it's indoors, it's much more direct. You can see everyone, the look on their faces, whether they like the songs or they don't really care or they don't know them. It's quite hard work because there are no gimmicks; whatever you do can be seen out there! You've got to be aware 360 degrees. I've had a cold lately and, every time I blow my nose, they can see me. You really feel you're on 100 per cent of the time."

The Stones tour will reach British shores this summer while *No Security*, the group's seventh live album, came out last year. But what about those BBC sessions, those Seventies out-takes? "We finally got the Rock'n'Roll Circus on CD, but how likely is a Stones box-set before 2000? "Nothing's planned to come out at the moment, but I'm sure it will one day. Not next year, but maybe the year after," says Jagger. "We've got a lot of good stuff from all periods, but I'm not really sure I want to do all the librarian work. My approach to the history of the Rolling Stones is somewhat ambivalent. I like to do what I'm doing now and I'd love to hear some of the old stuff, but I don't want to be listening for hours and hours. You feel like you're living in the past too much. I would prefer someone else to do the spade work."

Blues Blues Blues by the Jimmy Rogers All Stars is out on Atlantic Records. The Rolling Stones are touring the US and play in the UK in June



It was like walking into Chicago," says Mick Jagger of his work on Jimmy Rogers' 'Blues Blues Blues'

Dave Hogan

MICHAEL CHURCH

Once, great music was written for castrati but they died out. Then came the countertenor

PAGE 14



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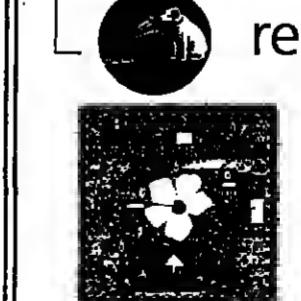
The Rise and Rise of Robbie

Currently at the top of his career, having collected three Brit Awards last month, Robbie Williams completed his UK tour this week

A blueprint for a pop star
You couldn't make it up
From prefab into rehab
In a minute.
Out, seemingly in seconds
And back into the fray
The Growing Up In Public sketch
Not in it
Despite the rabid headlines
The boy-band albatross
And ligging with Oasis
All the rest
Comparisons with sportsmen...
He came out in the wash
As not exactly Gazza
More George Best
Adonis with a beer-gut
You know he's at the top
When women are discussing him
On trains

And "Robbie Williams Poster"
For ailing magazines
Becomes the only option
Which remains
The one that really did it
The single biggest shock
Was when the critics found
That he could sing
"Pop Artist Found With Talent"
No journalistic nous
Can ever brace you for
That kind of thing
From space cadet at Glasto
Through jousting with Tom Jones
To platinum-selling songs
Penned on a bus
The odds were stacked against it
He's twenty-five years old
So is he not a pop star then?
Discuss

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Norway's new nightingale

Thanks to her childlike voice and airy-fairy songs, Anja Garbarek is often compared to Björk. But her jazz-musician father has been her main influence. By Fiona Sturges

There are many parallels to be drawn between Anja Garbarek and Björk. The daughter of the jazz pioneer Jan Garbarek wears a faded black T-shirt over the top of a delicate silk shirt and a floor-length quilted skirt that could have been an elderflower in a previous life. Her North London flat is a cavern of conflicting lime greens, oranges and searing pinks, where macabre sado-masochistic photographs hang innocently on the wall between family snapshots and kaleidoscopic paintings.

But Garbarek was not always an admirer of her father's music. "For a long time I saw his music as being physically painful with all those squeaking and grinding noises. But something happened when I was eight. My parents took me on tour with them in Japan where the music got under my skin for the first time. I suddenly understood what it was all about."

Following this precocious epiphany, Garbarek enthusiastically threw herself into piano lessons at school but found that she was uncomfortable with the teaching methods. "It was nothing like what I had with my dad. It was always about analysing and studying the work of strangers rather than people close to me," she explains. "The fact that I can't remember anything they taught me is quite telling."

Though her voyage of musical discovery with her father never abated, it wasn't until she was 19 that she took up music again.

"I was called by BMG Records and asked for a demo after someone saw me performing in a musical at college. I didn't have one so I took in this tape of improvised noises that I had made when I was 16. I went to the office and put it on and they were absolutely horrified. They told me to go into the studio and record something a little more grown-up."

But it was Garbarek's predilection for experimentalism that really enticed BMG and this is one of the more perceptible traits that has been passed on from her father.

Her debut album *Balloon Moods* appeared in 1992, but Garbarek was dissatisfied: "I hadn't discovered my own sound yet and the record company seemed to have more input than I did." As a result,

Garbarek's conversational manner adds to the catalogue of contrasts: her sunny disposition belies the dark, elliptical nature of her recorded material and she talks about her sense of isolation as a child as if she were discussing a day by the seaside.

"I would always go on tour with my parents, and on the brief periods at home, the house was always full of musicians," she remembers. "It was very unsettling. I wanted to be one of those latch-key kids so my dad made me a pretend key to hang around my neck for school." Garbarek is pictured as a child wearing this key on the front of her album.

For most kids, the first glimpses of musical education comes via school chums and television, but



Anja Garbarek: imagine JM Barrie's Wendy being accidentally swept off to Tolkein's Mordor instead of Never-Never Land

the writing of *Balloon Moods* sent her scurrying to the Norwegian mountains for a period of monastic musical study.

"I realised that I couldn't work with other people at that point as I didn't want them to infect themselves on my picture. As soon as I was alone I was inspired to listen and write."

Did her father offer any advice? "Of course," she says. "He has got years of experience - it would be a waste not to exploit that. He can help me out with everything, from how to play a chord to what type of music I should refer to."

On her return, Garbarek requisitioned help from producer Marius DeVries, whose previous

credits include Massive Attack and Madonna, to put on the finishing touches.

The resulting compositions takes in constituents of modern jazz, Elektronica, synth, psychedelia and performance poetry, with melodies that swerve between winsome sonnets and eerie elegies. Her

style has already drawn comparisons with Björk and Sinead O'Connor.

"It is inevitable that people should compare me with other musicians," she sighs. "But I would really like to take music forwards on my own, just like my dad."

Balloon Moods is out on RCA records.

ROCK: THE NEXT GENERATION



Sean (left, with John) and Julian Lennon: You can hear the four-year-old Sean gurgling

on some versions of "With a Little Help from my Friends" as his dad thrashes an electric guitar. Nineteen years on, Sean is energetically pursuing a career in *contre-garde* pop, though reception has been muted. His half-brother Julian, enjoyed chart success, though the excitement surrounding his early career was never matched by musical credibility.

Jeff Buckley: The son of the 1970s singer-songwriter Tim Buckley escaped the fate of the little Lennons by producing a brilliant debut album, *Grace*, 20 years after his father's death. Sadly, Jeff's career was cut short when he drowned in 1997.



The Webb Brothers: Justin and Christian Webb took close lessons from their dad, the song-writing legend Jimmy Webb, before they airted their smart, psychedelic-tinged pop.

Others living in their dad's limelight: Jakob Dylan is the talented frontman of the band Wallflowers, and Ziggy Marley has tried to ape the success of his father Bob. Adam Cohen is following in the footsteps of Leonard, while Zak Starkey plays drums, like his father, Ringo Starr. Pete Townshend's daughter Emma has released an album, as has Anoushka Shankar, daughter of Ravi.

ROBERT HANKS ON TV

A portrait of a dwarf strip show... my first impression was that it was just a freak show

PAGE 18

NME UNLEASHED EVERY WEEK



Long live the Comedown Queen

LIVE
DOT ALLISON
IMPROV THEATRE
LONDON

DOIT ALLISON had stardom in her grasp once before, when her band One Dove were made Andy Weatherall's first post-Screamedelica project. But pressures from inside and out tore the band apart. And then, poised for a new start, Allison narrowly escaped death in a car crash. She couldn't walk for four months. Her senses were muffled.

And so, for her first solo show, she's left nothing to chance. The female string section march into position as if they're in a recital. The keyboardist closes her eyes in anticipation. The guitarists are sharply dressed in clubbers'

daywear. And Dot Allison, blonde-haired and in a glittering black top, takes centre stage. Everyone is expectant. The crowd gives a cheer. And her second chance begins.

Her songs detail dreamy obsession: lovers clinging and escaping. Her voice is sugary, like Sarah Cracknell's. Nerves stop her smiling or making more than a very occasional quip but what really makes an impression is the booming

depth to the sound she and her band produce, the thud of drums struck at the same time as bells and cymbals and strings, with her at the intimate centre. She gives a little gig as it all comes together.

There are glitches. An acoustic guitar won't plug into the sound system, and she sings several songs with an earpiece swinging free. But she isn't phased. Maybe it's because, like Robbie Williams, this is in her blood (mother and aunt are musicians). It's quickly apparent that this is a polished, more-than-promising debut.

Allison shares with label-mate Beth Orton the tag of

Comedown Queen, a hangover from her use of Screamedelica's narcotic dub. But this new work has different intentions. Perhaps it's the result of post-crash anaesthetic haze, but the songs she plays tonight come up as if from deep sleep. "Message Personnel" begins with her singing and moving robotically, chanting a changeless, careless mantra. It takes the music's slow surge to bring her to life, until guitars are lifting the song to a swirling climax, and Dot is dancing from the tip, pointing at the crowd like Diana Ross dug out of the deep freeze. The music has caused

disciplined liberation. Allison cracks a smile.

All that's left is the new single, "Mo Pop". For this song of unwilling love, Allison mumbles at first, as if the lyrics are in a strange tongue. She's just waiting for the chorus. As the spotlight falls on her alone, Allison sings it, la la la made into an affirmation. Everyone hits their guitars together; the string section slides between them, and not a note is out of place. Then they're gone. It lasted 30 minutes. It's pop at its most graceful; professional perfection.

NICK HASTED
"Mo Pop" (Heavenly) will be released this week



Allison: perfect pop

There's life in the old punks yet

LIVE
STIFF LITTLE FINGERS
THE JUNCTION
CAMBRIDGE

WHEN JAKE Burns kicked off "Tin Soldiers" with his trademark yelp on Tuesday night, he gave notice that SLF still have plenty of life in their digits. The band didn't even break sweat as they pounded non-stop through "Just fade away" and Jimmy Cliff's "You can get it if you really want", pausing for barely a moment before charging into "Bits of kids", the first "whoah-oh-oh" song of the evening.

After the bell-ringing jangle of "Fly the Flag", cries of "Ul-

ster" began to rise up from the 700-strong Cambridge horde. But Jake wasn't going to be rushed into anything. "I don't need to tell you I come from Belfast" he said. "So here's the first optimistic song I've ever written about it." The loping

dub-style "Last Train from the Wasteland" offered a sense of hope in the darkness, and along with the emphatic new rocker "Hope St" showed the way forward for Stiff Little Fingers.

Bruce Foxton provided his distinctive Jam bass sound and shared the vocal chores, while Steve Grantley (drums) and Ian McCallum (guitar) completed the outfit. Another frantic bead-nodder "Barbed Wire Love" (their only love song according to Burns)

paved the way for more "woah-oh-ohing". The hardcore mob greatly appreciated "Wasted life", "Roots Radics", and "Nobody's Hero", but persisted with their yell of "Ulster" as each tune crashed to its breakneck ending. Then at last they stood in awe while Jake played the hallowed, plaintive opening notes of "Alternative Ulster". Rarely does a song express such melancholy and such hope both at the same time, but that is the

achievement of this 1978 punk throwaway.

Three minutes later it was all over, and SLF left the stage looking a little drained. Quickly encouraged back, they tore off again with a version of Bob Marley's "Johnny Was". Jake Burns' voice now thoroughly in gear for the frenzied plea of the chorus. Nothing was spared for "Long Way to Paradise" and "Straw Dogs" before the faithful disciples bid them a fond farewell. Anyone who got home

and discovered that all their SLF singles had been nicked will be glad to know they can get them again on a new double album called *And best of all... Hope St*.

This is a band that still seem to enjoy what they do best, namely performing live. Move mountains to catch them at Glasgow. Otherwise, put your record player on repeat, and play "Alternative Ulster" again and again and again.

MAGNUS MILLS

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LATEST RECORDS BOUGHT BY NIK KERSHAW

First record

T-Rex: "Bang A Gong (Get It On)"
This was the first record that I thought was pretty special. I was a huge Bolan fan. I remember seeing pictures of him at gigs and wanting to do what he did. Bolan had something that no one else did then, or even now. He was a bit of a weirdo, and a purveyor of the glam lifestyle. I thought

he was a real poet: "Get it on, bang a gong, get it on" - poetry. It was really easy to play, which was another reason I liked it, really dumb chords. T-Rex must have had an influence on me, because I was very impressionable. If T-Rex were still around I wouldn't want them to reform - they belong to my youth. I don't want it messing up my life now.

Last record

Chill Music

Divine Comedy: "Fin de Siècle"
Neil Hannon has a great sense of humour, which is sadly lacking in a lot of music these days. With lines such as "an arse the size of a small country", it sounds like he's got his tongue in his cheek all the time. Everything on that album is really clever, and it's obvious that a huge

amount of work has gone into it. It's not like anything else - when it's on the radio it sticks out. A couple of tracks are particularly stunning: "Sweden" and "Eric the Gardener". I don't own a record by an artist who doesn't write their own songs. I like writers who can express themselves and have something to say. Nik Kershaw's new album '15 Minutes' is out now

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Alternative rock, indie rock, post-punk

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILLWILCO
Summerteeth
Reprise

IT'S ALREADY a vintage year for American roots-rock, with great records by Smog, Bonnie Prince Billy and Chuck E Weiss followed here by another classic from Wilco. Now slimmed to a quartet, the group sound more focused than on 1997's acclaimed *Being There* – though, thanks to the enlarged role played by multi-instrumentalist Jay Bennett, no less diverse in their approaches. If its predecessor owed a sizeable debt to the Stones of *Exile On Main Street*, this one seems more informed by The Beatles.

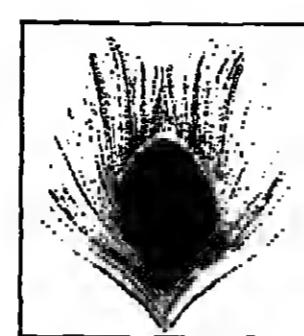
The songs are a series of meditations on Tweedy's emotions. But where *Being There* sought (and found) glorious reassurance of the redemptive power of rock'n'roll, *Summerteeth* reflects the more arduous side of band life – the transitory relationships, the brief flares of exhilaration, and the more lingering pangs of loneliness and self-doubt that creep in as musicians wait in departure lounges or gaze at their reflections in bus windows.

Most moving of all, it deals with the dev-

astating effect such a peripatetic life can have on a family. Behind the winsome melodies and warm textures of these songs lurk painful details of a relationship eroded by separation, as its protagonists lose the habit of each other. It's a process which leaves the songwriter dizzied by conflicting moods, trying to find out where and why things went wrong, but always stuck in the same self-defeating loops: "What you once were isn't what you want to be any more"; "The first thing that you want will be the last thing that you need".

Ultimately, only his daughter seems to provide Tweedy with any real sense of certainty, and even then there's an unbearable poignancy to the past tense of lines like "We were a family my darlin'".

If that all seems a little too depressing, don't be misled: part of what makes Wilco special is their knack for balancing the harshest of sentiments and saddest of moods with uplifting melodies and arrangements, a style which brings depth and resonance to *Summerteeth*.

XTC
Apple Venus
Cooking Vinyl

IT'S BEEN almost seven years since XTC won on strike after the lovely *Nonsuch*, and the gap has not been good for them. They've always exhibited baroque pop tendencies, and it sounds as if every moment of the hiatus has been dedicated to embellishing these 11 songs, to their detriment. The opening track "River Of Orchids" serves notice of what to expect: pizzicato strings and staccato horns tiptoe around overlapping layers of vocals, the whole song growing cyclically.

Their thematic and stylistic touchstones remain the same – there are punning rhymes aplenty, and countless moments aiming for Beatle or Beach Boy bliss. "Green Man" continues their noble record of adapting English folk imagery without lapsing into fake antiquity or dreadlocked druidism – but the addition of flamenco handclaps to the McCartney-esque whimsy of "I'd Like That" exemplifies the way virtually all these tracks are taken too far. The contrast with the Wilco album is instructive: though both bands draw on similar influences, Wilco sound more natural.

THE TIGER LILLIES
Shockheaded Peter
NMC Arts/Warner Classics

THE NURSERY rhymes in Heinrich Hoffman's 19th-century classic *Struwwelpeter* have long been the most effective means of populating the nightmares of small children, and in *The Tiger Lillies*' acclaimed "junk opera", they get the treatment they deserve. These grisly lessons about the dangers of such childish habits as thumb sucking and picky eating are not treated as kiddie sing-alongs; both settings and delivery come from darker nooks of the unconscious, sounding like Tom Waits material fronted by Tiny Tim or Dame Edna.

The breadth of styles the trio produce from their accordion, drums, and double-bass line-up ranges from the louche polka of "Johnny Head-In-Air" and the New Orleans second-line groove of "Fidgety Phil" to the Arabic-tinted accordion vamp of "The Story Of The Man That Went Out Shooting". But it's the relish with which singer Martyn Jacques' demented falsetto greets the decease of each disobedient child with a shrieked "Dead! Dead! Dead!" that gives the project its creepy quality.

VAN MORRISON
Back On Top
Pointblank

ANOTHER YEAR, another Van album, largely indistinguishable from its recent predecessors save for the contributions of ex-Pirate Mick Green, whose guitar work is a model of taste and subtlety.

Back On Top has all the usual Morrisonics and traits – the obscure R&B references (this time to former Brit-blues Playboy Vince Taylor), the acute sensitivity to seasonal changes ("High Summer"), the occupational ruminations ("The Philosopher's Stone") and the grumblyings about the kind of gnaw-bite irritations one would hope might rise above, such as "New Biography".

Sometimes, the effect is bizarre: in "Golden Autumn Day", Van's reverie is disturbed by muggers, leading him to lament, "Who would think this could happen... Among Blake's green and pleasant hills?", before musing upon the kind of flogging the antagonists.

Even there are exquisite moments, particularly in "In The Midnight", about how the "lonely, lonely music" be once beard has "been haunting me ever since". Long may it continue to do so.

KULA SHAKER
Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts
Columbia

"THIS IS the age of decay and hypocrisy," froths Crispian Mills in "S.O.S.", outlining a few of the age's apparently dread characteristics as "Blood transfusion, revolution, satellites on Mars". He could have chosen instead to decry the convolution and wild delusions of silly boys with guitars, but that might have required the kind of inward inspection that wasn't entirely focused on his own navel.

Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts is a truly horrible, half-baked affair, full of bogus portents of a "new world", lent a modicum of unwarranted self-assurance by Bob Ezrin's steely production.

The really sad thing is that Kula Shaker seem oblivious of the disjunction between their message (dog-eared Eastern hippy mysticism) and their medium (flatulent Western prog rock), the most egoistic music ever devised. This will be good news for those still lamenting the decline of Yes – though even they might balk at lines like "You're a wizard in a blizzard of mystical machine-guns". The rest of us will simply reflect that, truly, there's a seeker born every minute.

I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

THE INDEPENDENT'S REGULAR ROUND-UP OF NEW BANDS

STROKE
CAMDEN BEEF, LONDON
—
CAY
ELECTRIC BALLROOM, LONDON
—
CUBA
IMPROV THEATRE, LONDON

Stroke could mean a variety of things: a flash of fortune, the motion of a racket hitting a ball or perhaps the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain. But you knew what Stroke had in mind from the chorus of girlie whoops that greeted their arrival. The lost little-boy looks of the guitarist elicited cooing noises from the audience as if they had been presented with a new-born kitten, while the carefully dishevelled appearance and pin-up poses of singer Jason Kelly had them foaming at the mouth.

Kelly's confidence was backed by a scorching performance. He switched on a convincingly glazed expression for the pensive numbers and strutted like a seasoned rock god for the more boisterous ones. Stroke's concoction of rock and muted

dance grooves displayed anathemic qualities that would have been more at home in a stadium than the diminutive dimensions of the Barfly. Their songs largely stuck to a winning formula of slow-burning introductions comprising shimmering keyboards and pared-down guitars, before building into a mighty barrage of grinding basslines. As it turned

out, their unwavering self-belief was entirely justified. If Courtney Love ever finds herself out of a job, it will be because of Cay's vocalist, Aneet Mook. Wearing a sneer and a t-shirt bearing the inscription 'I Suk Rok', Mook was the consummate indie icon. Her voice blended Love's throaty tones with the visceral yowl of Babes In Toyland's Kat Bjelland, and she was backed by guitars that echoed the moody ruminations of Sonic Youth. But Cay's objective was not simply to thrust angst-ridden attitude in our faces. Compelling melodies were discernible under Mook's 30+ day vocals while sweeping instrumental passages unveiled a refreshing capacity for reflection.

Cuba were the Happy Mondays tailored for the middle classes. After a navel-gaze instrumental prelude, they steamed into a baggy number that seemed disturbingly familiar. With the anticipation surrounding the revival of baggy's true patrons next month, Cuba's pale imitation has arrived at a particularly inopportune time.

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CD INDEX

Britten's spring awakening

Neither symphony nor song-cycle, Benjamin Britten's most idiosyncratic achievement is a major landmark. By Bayan Northcott

Interesting that, as part of his current 70th birthday celebrations at the Barbican, André Previn has chosen from the English choral tradition he so manifestly loves, not an obvious rampage such as Vaughan Williams's *Sea Symphony* or Walton's *Belsazar's Feast*, but the *Spring Symphony* Op 44 by Benjamin Britten. True, the work comes from arguably the richest phase of Britten's career – that astonishing decade from the mid-Thirties to the mid-Fifties that saw the composition of six full-length operas along with so much else. Nor is it exactly a rarity in the concert hall or on disc – Previn himself recorded it years ago.

Yet its reception since its triumphant first performance at the 1949 Holland Festival has remained distinctly mixed. Where that fervent, if by no means uncritical Britten fan, Hans Keller, could declare the *Spring Symphony* "a supreme masterpiece", an equally sympathetic Michael Kennedy has complained that there are passages "where one is made uncomfortably aware of faltering invention, of the jam being spread very thin, of reliance on artifice".

Meanwhile, the debate continues as to just what kind of a piece it really is. A choral work – in which the full chorus only appears intermittently in six of its 12 sections? A song-cycle – split between three soloists? And how can a structure in which three of the four "movements" comprise diverse song-settings strung together be described, in any sense, as a symphony?

Such questions were already latent in the choice of texts. It has been generally assumed since Schubert that the larger unity of a set or cycle is helped by sticking to a single poet or single tone of voice. Yet, from his early "symphonic cycle" *Our Hunting Fathers* (1936) to a text party gathered and partly written by WH Auden, Britten seemed recurrently drawn to the more disparate – and hence riskier – anthology principle. The *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* (1943), *A Charm of Lullabies* (1947), the *Spring Symphony* itself, and the *Nocturne* (1958) are all settings of diverse poems, related only by subject or mood. Granted, Britten originally intended to base the *Spring Symphony* upon anonymous medieval Latin verses, which might have conferred their own unity of tone. But "a re-reading of much English lyric verse and a particularly lovely spring day in east Suffolk, the Suffolk of Constable and Gainsborough, made me change my mind". In



on the face of it, seems to contradict all its traditional procedures.

If so, this may help to explain why the *Spring Symphony* has become something of a composers' work. Tippett certainly remembered the way Britten constructed his opening as a succession of quite distinct ideas for different sections of the orchestra which are then piled up on one another, when he came to compose his *Concerto for Orchestra* (1963) and at least two other substantial works reveal a debt to Britten's structure. One of them is Leonard Bernstein's polystylistic *Songfest* (1977), a six-movement setting of 12 American poets for six soloists, the jaunty finale of which opens with an upward-bounding theme that sounds like a direct tribute to Britten.

The other work was actually dedicated to him. This is Shostakovich's 14th Symphony (1969) for two soloists, strings and percussion, structured on poems about death by Apollinaire, Lorca, Rilke and Kuchelbecker. At the premiere, Shostakovich experienced the grim requital of seeing one of his deadliest enemies start from the audience and drop dead on the spot. Only a model of complex suggestiveness could have helped to engender such utterly contrasting works as the Bernstein and Shostakovich, and one of the sadnesses of Britten's own early death is that he, too, was planning a follow-up in the form of a *Sea Symphony* for which he had already selected the texts.

Ultimately it is the qualities rare even in Britten for which the *Spring Symphony* is most to be cherished. Never before or after did he dare to exploit so wide a gap between fragmented foreground structure and implied background form. Yet, for all the disparate details, the cunning with which the sectional proportions are disposed, and the steely cogency with which the lines are drawn do finally yield an overall profile, a cumulative 40-minute sweep which, in retrospect, feels genuinely symphonic. Nor are those disparate details – the sensitised word-setting, the brightly as tringent harmony, the rude vernacular incursions of whistling boys choir and feisty cow horn – to be less than relished. If the work only once touches on more troubling thoughts in Auden's allusion to 1930s Europe, it culminates in the most unalloyed paeans of joy in all Britten – reasons enough to catch it at the Barbican.

Britten's *Spring Symphony*, LSO/Previn is at the Barbican, London, 0171-638 8891, on Wednesday 10 March at 7.30pm

Benjamin Britten's 'Spring Symphony' belongs to a particularly fertile period which saw him also compose six operas

Hulton Getty

the event, he came up with a selection of 13 poets, ranging from the anonymous "Sumer is icumen in" to an admiring Auden meditation from the Thirties.

Then there is the matter of scoring. Britten asks for soprano, alto and tenor soloists, boys choir, symphonic chorus and large orchestra, including five percussionists and two harps. But he had never cared for what he called "the luscious tutti effect" of late-Romantic orchestration, preferring the clear textures of Mahler, Stravinsky and Shostakovich. With the exception of his first two chamber operas behind him, Britten was well on the way to a conception of the symphony orchestra as a collection of small ensembles.

There are a few elaborate tutti in the *Spring Symphony* – in the icy opening setting of the wondrously vivid anonymous lyric "Shine out fair sun", for instance, or the blustery festive Beaumont and Fletcher welcome to the month of May that comprises the finale. But long passages are accompanied by sub-sections of the orchestra or mere handfuls of instruments: the rapt setting of Henry Vaughan's "Waters above" that forms the centrepiece of the slow second movement features just solo tenor and a weightless scudding of violins. Coupled with the frequently pungent harmony, the effect is often a spare edgeiness of sound. With the arguable exception of the first-movement setting of Thomas Nashe's

"Spring, the sweet spring" in which the "big harp" tutti accompaniment is indeed sweetened by a sustaining string quartet, Britten conspicuously avoids the kind of vernal haze of such earlier English evocations of spring as Delius's *First Cuckoo* or the rhapsodic *Enter Spring* by his own teacher, Frank Bridge.

Britten's first movement comprises highly contrasted settings of six different poets – Anon, Spenser, Nashe, Pele and Clare (cross-cut in one setting) and ending in the stately processional of Milton's "Now the bright morning star". The slow second movement flanks "Waters above" with Herrick's "Welcome Maids of Honour" and verses from Auden's "Out on the

lawn I lie in bed" (challenging the work's title in another sense by evoking "the windless nights of June").

The scherzo-like third movement encompasses settings of Barnefield, Pele and Blake, and only the comparatively brief, though vastly inventive finale is through-composed. Careful analysis can uncover a number of tonal and motivic connections between various of the settings. Yet rather than developing such links, Britten actually seems to play them down, emphasising the discontinuity between numbers by sharp contrasts of scoring and character. It is as if he had deliberately set out to test the enduring strength of the symphonic ideal by realising it anew in a manner that,

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By Bryan Northcott

and the

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Highgate The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 4.35pm, 7.50pm This Year's Love 8.45pm You've Got M@ll 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

PECKHAM
PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-2353006) BR: Peckham Rye Beloved 4.05pm, 7.35pm, 10.55pm *A Bug's Life* 5pm, 7pm *Enemy of State* 11.50pm *Holy Man* 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 11.50pm *How Stella Got her Groove Back* 9.05pm, 11.40pm *Shakespeare in Love* 7.15pm *The Thin Red Line* 4pm, 7.30pm, 10.55pm *This Year's Love* 4.35pm, 9.30pm You've Got M@ll 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley *A Bug's Life* 6pm *Hillary and Jackie* 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.55pm *Shakespeare in Love* 2.25pm, 8.15pm You've Got M@ll 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-902 04011) BR: Purley *Bridge* *A Bug's Life* 2.15pm *Shakespeare in Love* 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm *This Year's Love* 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm You've Got M@ll 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705-050007) BR/E: Richmond *Shakespeare in Love* 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm *The Thin Red Line* 12.50pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@ll 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/E: Richmond Beloved 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.20pm *A Bug's Life* 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm *Hillary and Jackie* 1.40pm, 7pm *Lilac Voice* 4.20pm, 9.30pm *This Year's Love* 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford *Bug* 4pm, 7pm *Holy Man* 2.30pm, 6.15pm *How Stella Got her Groove Back* 9.05pm, 11.40pm You've Got M@ll 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

RODNEY LIBERTY 2 (0870-050007) BR: Romford Beloved 1pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm *A Bug's Life* 1.10pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm *Hillary and Jackie* 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm *Shakespeare in Love* 2.35pm, 5.10pm, 8.15pm *Stepmom* 12noon *The Thin Red Line* 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm *This Year's Love* 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm *Urban Legend* 6.45pm, 9pm You've Got M@ll 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0514-555131) BR: Sidcup *A Bug's Life* 6pm *Shakespeare in Love* 2.30pm, 8.20pm You've Got M@ll 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

STAPLES CORNER
WIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricketwood *A Bug's Life* 1pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm *Holy Man* 2.10pm, 5.10pm *How Stella Got her Groove Back* 11.30pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm *Stepmom* 12noon *The Thin Red Line* 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm *This Year's Love* 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm *Urban Legend* 6.45pm, 9pm You've Got M@ll 1.10pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.45pm

STANFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR: Stratford East *A Bug's Life* 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 5.40pm *How Stella Got her Groove Back* 10pm, 11.30pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm *Stepmom* 12noon *The Thin Red Line* 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm *This Year's Love* 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm *Urban Legend* 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm, 12midnight You've Got M@ll 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8pm, 11.45pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill *Hillary and Jackie* 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.1pm *Stepmom* 2pm, 5.20pm *This Year's Love* 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.35pm, 9.55pm *La Vida è Bella* 7.35pm You've Got M@ll 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

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STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill *Hillary and Jackie</i*

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.98MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe.
4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45
Newstead. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection: Pete Tong unveils Radio 1's plans to bring in the millennium in a special show live from the site of the Millennium Dome. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider.
4.00 - 7.00 Jamie Theakston.

RADIO 2
(92.802MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 Juliet Morris. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Des Lynam.

Guests, sports news and music.
7.00 Morley at the Musicals. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: Introduced by Richard Baker from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. David Arnold conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, with guest artist Claire Moore, Aled Jones and pianist Paul Hart. At 8.15, during the Interval, Richard Baker introduces music on disc from former BBC Radio 2 Young Tradition Winner Luke Daniels.

9.35 John le Carré's Single and Single. 9.30 Listen to the Band. Frank Reintzen presents a session from the Cory Band conducted by Jeremy Wise. 10.00 David Jacobs.
10.30 Sheridan Morley. 11.45 The People's Psalm. 12.00 Nicky Horne. 4.00 - 6.00 Lata Sharma.

RADIO 3
(90.924MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A concert given last November at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, introduced by Chris de Souza. Gould Trio. Faure: Piano Trio in D minor, Op 120. Ravel: Pi-

ano in A minor. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Music Restored.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 in Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. A concert given last month in the

PICK OF THE DAY

THE GRANDE DAME of confessional TV: Oprah Winfrey, graces *Woman's Hour* (10am Rd4) with her presence and talks about never being bucked up in bed, dieting for the cover of *Vogue*, and other matters of great weight.

In *Beyond Black and White* (11am Rd4), the *Independent* columnist Yasmin Alibhai Brown investigates whether, with British

society becoming increasingly multi-cultural, the Sixties notion of a "racial melting pot" has finally become a reality.

Any Questions? (8pm Rd4) wins the award for understatement of the week: the former Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies MP, (right) joins the panel to help explain current affairs to the man on the Clapham omnibus.

Dominic Cavendish

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Lars Vogt (piano). Maxwell Davies: *A Reel for Seven Fishermen* (first UK performance). Conductor Peter Maxwell Davies.

Beethoven: *Piano Concerto No 4 in G*. Shostakovich: *Symphony No 6*. Conductor Vassily Sinaisky.

9.35 Postscript: 5: Finland is less

than 100 years old as a country. It

defined itself as neither Swedish

nor Russian, while both countries

exerted great influence over it. Is

its indigenous culture now under

threat from mobile phones, the

European Union and Hollywood?

Joe Farrell reports from Helsinki.

10.00 Hear and Now: Verity

Sharr presents music by two se-

nior figures of the European post-

war scene, both concerned with

aspects of drama in music. All the

music was specially recorded in

the studio for tonight's pro-

gramme. BBC Singers/Stefan

Parkman/BBC Symphony Orches-

tra/Diego Masson. Bussotti: *Il cat-*

aboga e questo lì. Henze: *La selva*

incantata.

11.30 Jazz Century: 1.00 *Music*

12.00 Composer of the Week: Copland. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: *Zarath*.

10.00 NEWS: *Woman's Hour*. See

Pick of the Day.

11.00 NEWS: Beyond Black and

White. See *Pick of the Day*.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Puzzle Panel.

2.00 NEWS: *The Archers*.

2.15 Afternoon Play: *Dry Sherry*.

3.00 NEWS: *Changing Pictures*.

3.30 First Nights. (R)

3.45 *This Sceptred Isle*.

4.00 NEWS: *Writers' Masterclass*.

4.30 *The Message*.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The Sunday Format.

7.00 NEWS: *The Archers*.

7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme.

7.45 *The Cry of the Bittern*. An

environmental drama by Tim Jack-

son. With Sean Baker, Rachel

Atkins and Marian Kemmer. Direc-

tor Peter Leslie Wild (15/30).

8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?

Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in

Merthyr, Pembrokeshire, by par-

elists including Ron Davies MP.

8.45 Letter from America. Alastair

Cooke with another slice of Ameri-

ca.

9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play:

Waiting. By Steve May. It is 9pm

on the first Friday in March. Tessa

is waiting for her 14-year-old

daughter to come home. Tanya, it

appears, is not planning on ac-

cepting the terms of her nine

o'clock curfew. With Lindsey Coul-

son, Kelly Wright and Harry My-

ers. Director Jeremy Mortimer.

McLeod and Dawn McCormack.

10.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Rusco and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight.

Alan Green and his studio guests

discuss the week's sporting issue

and look ahead to the weekend's

fixtures. Plus updates and sec-

ond-half commentary on Cardiff

City v Chester City in Division

Three.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and

comment on the day's big issues

with Brian Hayes. Including Pe-

tertial, 10.30 Sport, 11.00 News.

11.15 *The Financial World Tonight*.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.1-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry

Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Con-

certo. 3.00 Jamie Clegg. 6.30

Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics

at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

Beethoven: *Symphony No 2 in D*.

Berlin PO/David Barenboim.

Schumann: *Fantasiestücke*, Op 73.

David Shifrin (clarinet). Carol

Rosenberger (piano). Brahms:

Symphony No 1 in C minor.

Scottish CO/Charlie Mackerras. 11.00

Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00

6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz

FM)

6.30 Russ Williams. 9.30 Mark

Forrest. 11.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00

Harriet Scott. 7.00 *Wheels of Steel*.

11.15 Janet Lee Greco.

2.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)

1.00 *The World Today*. 1.30

Mendian (Books). 2.00 *The World Today*. 2.30 *People and Politics*.

3.00 *The World Today*. 3.20

Sports Roundup. 3.30 *World Business Report*. 3.45 *Insight*.

4.00 *The World Today*. 4.30

Weekend. 5.00 *The World Today*. 5.45 - 6.00 *My Century*.

TALK RADIO

6.00 David Banks and Nick Ferrar.

9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally

James. 12.00 Motoring. 1.00 Anne

Raebum. 3.00 *OK to Talk*. 5.00

The SportZone. 6.00 Nicky Horne's

Access All Areas. 10.00 Dave Bar-

rett. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.



12.00 *The Midday News*.

1.00 *Rusco and Co.*

4.00 *Drive*.

